

California Code of Regulations (Title 3. Food and Agriculture)

Division 6. Pesticides and Pest Control Operations

6724. Handler Training.

The employer shall assure that employees who handle pesticides have been trained pursuant to the requirements of this Section and that all other provisions of this Section have been complied with for employees who handle pesticides.

(a) The employer shall have a written training program. The training program shall describe the materials (e.g., study guides, pamphlets, pesticide product labeling, Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets, Material Safety Data Sheets, slides, video tapes) and information that will be provided and used to train his or her employees and identify the person or firm that will provide the training. The training program shall address each of the subjects specified in subsection (b) that is applicable to the specific pesticide handling situation. The employer shall maintain a copy of the training program while in use and for two years after use, at a central location at the workplace.

(b) The training shall cover, for each pesticide or chemically similar group of pesticides, to be used:

(1) Format and meaning of information, such as precautionary statements about human health hazards, contained in pesticide product labeling;

(2) Hazards of pesticides, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization, as identified in pesticide product labeling, Material Safety Data Sheets, or Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets;

(3) Routes by which pesticides can enter the body;

(4) Signs and symptoms of overexposure;

(5) Emergency first aid for pesticide overexposure;

(6) How to obtain emergency medical care;

(7) Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including spill clean up and the need to thoroughly shower with soap and warm water after the exposure period;

(8) Need for, limitations, appropriate use, and sanitation, of, any required personal protective equipment;

(9) Prevention, recognition, and first aid for heat-related illness;

(10) Safety requirements and procedures, including engineering controls (such as closed systems and enclosed cabs) for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides;

(11) Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards;

(12) Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home;

(13) Requirements of this chapter and chapter 4 relating to pesticide safety, Material Safety Data Sheets, and Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets;

(14) The purposes and requirements for medical supervision if organophosphate or carbamate pesticides with the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING" on the labeling are mixed, loaded, or applied for the commercial or research production of an agricultural plant commodity;

(15) The location of the written Hazard Communication Information For Employees Handling Pesticides (Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflet A-8), other Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets, and Material Safety Data Sheets;

(16) The employee's rights, including the right;

(A) To personally receive information about pesticides to which he or she may be exposed;

(B) For his or her physician or employee representative to receive information about pesticides to which he or she may be exposed; and

(C) To be protected against retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of his or her rights.

(c) The training shall be in a manner the employee can understand, be conducted pursuant to the written training program, and include response to questions.

(d) Training shall be completed before the employee is allowed to handle pesticides, continually updated to cover any new pesticides that will be handled, and repeated at least annually thereafter. Initial training may be waived if the employee submits a record showing that training meeting the requirements of this Section and covering the pesticides and use situations applicable to the new employment situation was received within the last year. A certified applicator is considered trained for the purposes of this Section.

(e) The date and extent of initial and annually required training given to the employee and the job to be assigned shall be recorded. This record shall be verified by the employee's signature and retained by the employer for two years at a central location at the workplace accessible to employees.

(f) The person conducting the training for employees who will be handling pesticides for the commercial or research production of an agricultural plant commodity shall be qualified as one of the following:

(1) A California certified commercial applicator;

(2) A California certified private applicator;

(3) A person holding a valid County Biologist License in Pesticide Regulation or Investigation and Environmental Monitoring issued by the Department of Food and Agriculture;

(4) A farm advisor employed by the University of California Extension Office;

(5) A person who has completed an "instructor trainer" program presented by one of the following:

(A) the University of California, Integrated Pest Management Program after January 1, 1993; or

(B) other instructor training program approved by the Director;

(6) A California licensed Agricultural Pest Control Adviser;

- (7) A California Registered Professional Forester; or
- (8) Other trainer qualification approved by the Director.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 12981, Food and Agricultural Code.

Reference: Sections 12980 and 12981, Food and Agricultural Code.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/030302.htm#a6724>