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Pesticide Use Compliance for Farms and Nurseries

Is your business meeting the basic requirements of California's regulations for pesticide use in agricultural settings? Use the checklist below to help determine your level of compliance.

This list is not comprehensive and it is not a certification of compliance, it is only intended to be a guide for new agricultural operations using non-restricted use pesticides. Depending on conditions specific to your business and/or the pesticides that you use, additional requirements likely apply. Remember to always read and follow label directions for any pesticide you use.

Do you have an Operator Identification Number (OIN)?

Commercial agricultural operations that use pesticides must apply for an OIN from their County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. OINs are required prior to the purchase and use of pesticides for production of an agricultural commodity [3 CCR 6622].

Have you submitted pesticide use reports?

When EPA registered pesticides are used pesticide use reports must be submitted to the County Department of Agriculture. After applying for an OIN you will be provided with login credentials for CalAgPermits.org where pesticide use reports can be submitted. Use of pesticides that are exempt from EPA registration does not need to be reported, but use records must be kept by the property operator [3 CCR 6626].

Do you provide notice prior to making pesticide applications?

The operator of a property must provide notice to any person for which they have prior knowledge may enter a treated area during an application or while the REI is in effect. Anyone who may walk within 1/4 mile of a field that will receive an application or during a REI are deemed likely to enter. Notification by the property operator to fieldworkers must include the date of the scheduled application, location and description of the area to be treated, and instructions not to enter the area to be treated [3 CCR 6618(a)].

Do you have a change area for employees who handle pesticides?

Employers must assure that there is, at the place where employees end their exposure period and remove their personal protective equipment, an area where employees may change clothes and wash themselves. Clean towels (single use paper towels), soap, and sufficient water shall be available to allow for thorough washing. The employer shall provide a clean, pesticide-free place where employees may store any personal clothing not in use while at work handling pesticides [3 CCR 6732].

Is personal protective equipment (PPE) properly stored?

PPE should be kept in a clean, specially designated place when not in use. It should be inspected regularly to insure it is in good working condition. PPE should not be stored near pesticides [3 CCR 6738 (a)].

Is emergency medical care planned for pesticide handlers?

Anyone who uses pesticides is a handler. Employers of individuals that handle pesticides must inform those handlers of the name and location of the nearest medical facility where they can obtain treatment in the case of an exposure. The name, address, and phone number of that facility must be posted at the work site [3 CCR 6726, 3 CCR 6766].

Are the pesticide handlers at your business trained?

Unless they are licensed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) or hold a Private Applicator's Certification (PAC) from a County Department of Agriculture, handlers must receive pesticide safety training before using a pesticide for the first time and at least annually thereafter. Training must be provided by a qualified individual. Qualified individuals are those listed in 3 CCR 6724(f) and include individuals who hold a DPR license or a PAC. Signed records of handler training must be kept on site and made available for inspection. [3 CCR 6724]

Do you have a written handler training program?

Employers must have a written handler training program. The program must describe the materials (e.g. study guides, pamphlets, pesticide product labeling, PSIS leaflets, SDS, etc.) and information used to train workers and identify the person or firm that provides the training. The training must cover all applicable topics listed in 3CCR 6724(b).

Are fieldworkers at your business trained?

A fieldworker is an individual who does not handle pesticides, but does work in or around areas where pesticides were used within 30 days of an application being made. As with handlers, fieldworkers must receive annual pesticide safety training from a qualified individual. Qualified individuals are those listed in 3 CCR 6724(f). Training must cover all topics listed in 3 CCR 6764(b).

Is application-specific information available to workers?

The following information about pesticide applications must be displayed at a central location where accessible to workers: location of treated area, date(s) and time(s) of application start and end, the restricted entry interval (REI), the product name, EPA registration number, active ingredients. [3 CCR 6723.1, 6761.1].

Are required hazard communication documents displayed?

Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-8 (for handlers) and A-9 (for fieldworkers) leaflets must be filled out and displayed in a location accessible to workers. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and pesticide use records must be kept on site and made available to workers at their request. Workers must be informed as to the location of these documents [3 CCR 6723.1, 6761]

Are pesticides stored securely?

Whenever pesticides are not under the personal control of the property operator, so as to avoid contact by unauthorized persons, those pesticides must be stored in a locked enclosure. [3 CCR 6672]

Are pesticides stored in proper containers?

In no case shall a pesticide be placed or kept in any container of a type commonly used for food, drink, or household products. [3 CCR 6680]

How do you dispose of empty used pesticide containers?

Pesticide containers should be triple-rinsed with enough water to fill 1/4 of the container's volume. The rinsate should be poured into the mix tank and used in the application. After rinsing pesticide containers can be disposed of as non-hazardous waste. Do not reuse pesticide containers.

Does your business use pesticides that require a respirator be worn during application?

If this applies to you or if an employer provides respirators to employees for optional use the following is required:

- Employers must have a written respirator training program for handlers.
- Handlers must be medically evaluated.
- Handlers must be fit tested.
- Employers must provide respirators that are clean and in working order. Respirators must be stored in a way to protect them from damage and contamination. They must also insure the that respirators are inspected and found to be in good condition before each use.
- The respirator training program, medical evaluations, and fit test records must be available on site for review during inspection