

## Duties for employers of handlers (cont.)

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Provide handlers with the PPE the pesticide label requires for the task, and be sure it is:

- Clean and in operating condition.
- Worn and used correctly.
- Inspected before each day of use.
- Repaired or replaced as needed.

Make sure respirators fit correctly. In Oregon, OSHA's Respiratory Protection program requirements apply.

Take steps to prevent heat-related illness.

Provide handlers a pesticide-free area for:

- Storing personal clothing not in use.
- Putting on PPE at start of task.
- Taking off PPE at end of task.

Do not allow employees to wear or take home used PPE.

### Care of PPE

Store and wash used PPE separately from other clothing and laundry.

If PPE is reused, clean it before each day of reuse, according to the instructions from the PPE manufacturer unless the pesticide labeling specifies other requirements. If there are no other instructions, wash in detergent and hot water.

Dry the clean PPE, or hang to dry, before storing.

Store clean PPE away from other clothing and away from pesticide areas.

### Replacing respirator purifying elements

Replace dust and mist filters:

- When breathing becomes difficult.
- When filter is damaged or torn.
- When respirator label or pesticide label requires (whichever is shorter).
- In the absence of any other instructions, at the end of that day's work period.

Replace gas- or vapor-removing cartridges or canisters:

- When you notice odor, taste, or irritation.
- When respirator label or pesticide label requires replacement (whichever is shorter).
- In the absence of any other instructions, at the end of that day's work period.

### Disposal of PPE

Discard coveralls and other absorbent materials that are heavily contaminated with undiluted pesticide having a "DANGER" or "WARNING" signal word.

Follow federal, state, and local laws when disposing of PPE that cannot be effectively cleaned.

## Instructions for people who clean PPE

Inform people who clean or launder PPE:

- That PPE may be contaminated with pesticides.
- Of the potentially harmful effects of exposure to pesticides.
- How to protect yourself when handling contaminated PPE.
- How to clean the PPE correctly.



### EPA's WPS Publications:

[www.epa.gov/agriculture/awor.html](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/awor.html)

### Oregon OSHA's WPS Page:

[www.orosha.org/subjects/worker\\_protection\\_standard.html](http://www.orosha.org/subjects/worker_protection_standard.html)

## OREGON OSHA RESOURCES:

**website:** [www.oregonosha.org](http://www.oregonosha.org)

1-800-922-2689 (English)

1-800-843-8086 (Español)

**Central office:** 503-378-3272

**Portland office:** 503-229-5910

*Consultation:* 503-229-6193

**Salem office:** 503-378-3274

*Consultation:* 503-373-7819

**Eugene office:** 541-686-7562

*Consultation:* 541-686-7913

**Bend office:** 541-388-6066

*Consultation:* 541-388-6068

**Medford:** 541-776-6030

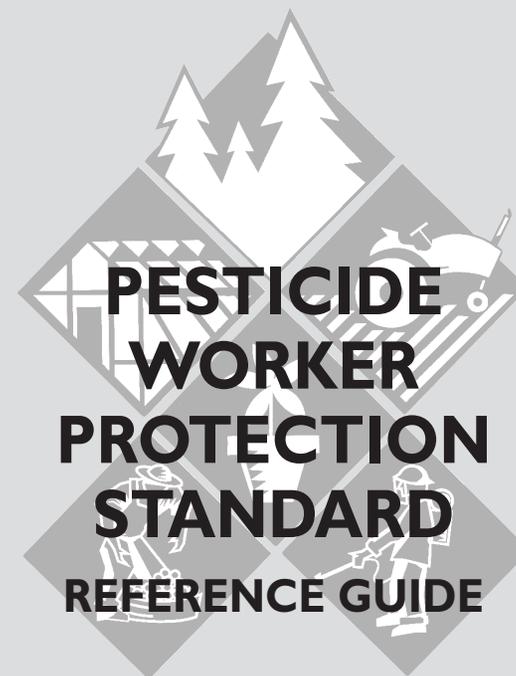
*Consultation:* 541-776-6016

**Pendleton:** 541-276-9175

*Consultation:* 541-276-2353



Oregon OSHA offers a wide variety of safety and health services to Oregon employers and employees. For information, call the office nearest you or visit the website.



## WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD Division 4/Agriculture, Subdivision W Revisions through 2009

**This guide outlines what employers must do to comply with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The WPS is a federal regulation designed to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. Oregon OSHA enforces the workplace safety and health requirements of the WPS in Division 4/W.**

**Workers** are people involved in the production of agricultural plants.

**Handlers** are people mixing, loading, or applying pesticides or doing other tasks involving direct contact with pesticides.



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## Duties for all employers

### Anti-retaliation

Do not retaliate against employees (workers or handlers) who attempt to comply with the WPS.

### Information at a central location

Display in a prominent, central location at each agricultural establishment:

- WPS *Protect Yourself from Pesticides* safety poster.
- Name, address, and telephone number of the nearest emergency medical facility.
- These facts about each pesticide application from before each application begins until 30 days after the restricted-entry interval (REI):
  - Product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredients.
  - Location and description of treated area.
  - Time and date of application and REI.

Tell workers and handlers where the information is posted and allow them access.

Tell them if emergency medical facility information changes and update the posted information.

Keep the posted information legible.

### Pesticide safety training

Unless they possess a valid training card, train handlers and workers before they begin work and at least once every five years. Training must be given by a certified applicator or other qualified person:

- Using language the employees can understand.
- Using oral, written, or audiovisual materials.
- Using WPS handler materials for training handlers.
- Using WPS worker materials for training workers.

### Decontamination supplies

Establish accessible decontamination supplies located together within 1/4 mile of all workers and handlers. Supply:

- Enough water for routine and emergency whole-body washing and for eyeflushing.
- Plenty of soap and single-use towels.
- At least one clean coverall.

Provide water that is safe and cool enough for washing, eyeflushing, and drinking. Do not use tank-stored water that is also used for mixing pesticides.

Provide handlers the same supplies where they remove their personal protective equipment (PPE) at the end of a task.

Provide the same supplies at each pesticide mixing and loading site.

Ensure that at least one pint eyeflush water is immediately accessible to each handler.

Do not put worker decontamination supplies in areas being treated with pesticides or under an REI.

In areas being treated with pesticides, put decontamination supplies for handlers in enclosed containers.

### Employer information exchange

Before any application, employers of commercial handlers must make sure the operator of the agricultural establishment where a pesticide will be applied is aware of:

- Location and description of area to be treated.
- Time and date of application.
- Product name, EPA registration number, active ingredients, and REI.
- Whether the product label requires both oral warnings and treated area posting.
- All other safety requirements on the labeling for workers or other people.

Operators of agricultural establishments must make sure any commercial pesticide operator they hire is aware of:

- Specific location and description of all areas on the agricultural establishment where pesticides will be applied or where an REI will be in effect while the commercial handler is on the establishment,
- Restrictions on entering those areas.

### Emergency assistance

When any handler or worker may have been poisoned or injured by pesticides:

Promptly make transportation available to a medical facility.

Promptly provide to the victim and to medical personnel:

- Product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredients.
- All first aid and medical information from label.
- Description of how the pesticide was used.
- Information about victim's exposure.

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## Duties for employers of workers

### Restrictions during applications

Do not allow workers to enter areas being treated with pesticides; allow entry only to appropriately trained and equipped handlers. Keep workers at least 100 ft. away from treated nursery areas.

Allow only trained and equipped handlers to be in a greenhouse:

- During a pesticide application.
- Until label-listed air concentration level is met or, if no such level, until after two hours of ventilation with fans.

### Restricted-entry intervals (REIs)

Do not allow workers to enter a treated area or to contact anything treated with the pesticide during an REI.

## Notice about applications

Orally warn workers and post signs in treated areas if the pesticide labeling requires both actions.

Otherwise, either orally warn workers or post signs in entrances to treated areas. Tell workers which method is in effect.

Post all greenhouse applications.

### Posted warning signs

Post legible 14" x 16" WPS-design warning signs just before application. Keep posted during REI and remove before workers enter or within three days after the end of the REI.

Post signs so they can be seen at all entrances to treated areas, including entrances from labor camps.

### Oral warnings

Before each application, tell workers who are on the establishment in a manner they can understand:

- The location and description of treated area.
- The duration of the REI and not to enter during REI.

Workers who enter the establishment after an application starts must receive the same warning.

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## Duties for employers of handlers

### Application restrictions and monitoring

Do not allow handlers to apply a pesticide so that it contacts, directly or through drift, anyone other than trained and PPE-equipped handlers.

Make sight or voice contact at least every two hours with anyone handling pesticides labeled with a skull and crossbones.

Make sure a trained handler equipped with label-specified PPE maintains constant voice or visual contact with any handler in a greenhouse who is doing fumigant-related tasks, such as application or air-level monitoring.

### Specific instructions for handlers

Before any handling task, inform them, in a manner they can understand, of all instructions for safe use on the pesticide label. Keep pesticide labeling accessible to each handler during the entire handling task.

Before using any assigned handling equipment, ensure that they know how to use it safely.

### Equipment safety

Inspect pesticide handling equipment before each use and repair or replace as needed.

Allow only appropriately trained and equipped handlers to repair, clean, or adjust pesticide equipment that contains pesticides or that is contaminated with residues.