

REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDLERS AND HANDLER EMPLOYERS DURING PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS



Owners and their immediate family members acting as handlers must comply with these requirements when applying pesticides on their establishment.

Agricultural employers must comply with certain requirements during pesticide applications to protect workers and other persons, such as bystanders. This section describes other WPS requirements during pesticide applications that directly affect handlers and handler employers. Agricultural employers who employ handlers (i.e., handler employers) and handlers themselves must comply with these requirements.

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Do not let pesticides contact workers or any persons 170.505(a)

The handler employer and the handler must ensure that no pesticide is applied so as to contact, directly or through drift, any worker or other person, other than an appropriately trained and equipped handler involved in the application. This is a requirement for both handlers and handler employers and it is also a labeling requirement the pesticide applicator must comply with. 170.505(a)

Suspend pesticide applications 170.505(b)

The application exclusion zone (AEZ) is described in Chapter 3 in terms of the agricultural employer's responsibilities to keep workers and others out of the treated area and AEZ during pesticide applications.

Effective January 2, 2018, there is a different AEZ requirement that applies to pesticide handlers making pesticide applications. Specifically, the handler making a pesticide application must **temporarily suspend** the application if any worker or other person (other than an appropriately trained and equipped handler involved with the application) is in the:

- AEZ for outdoor production applications, or
- Area required to be free of workers or others during enclosed space production applications.

The "do not contact" requirement is not limited by distance or the boundaries of the establishment, so it applies to workers and other persons whether they are on or off the agricultural establishment and regardless of how far away they are from the application.

The handler requirement to suspend the application applies if a worker or other person is in any portion of the AEZ. In this situation, the applicator must temporarily suspend the application and may not proceed until the applicator can ensure that the pesticide will not contact any persons that are in the AEZ, including areas that extend beyond the boundary of the establishment.

Effective January 2, 2017, agricultural employers must keep workers and other persons out of the AEZ.

An agricultural employer may not allow a pesticide to be applied, or a suspended application to be resumed, while any worker or other person on the establishment is in the treated area or within the AEZ.

Monitor handlers using highly toxic pesticides 170.505(c)

If a pesticide product that has the skull-and-crossbones symbol on the front panel of the pesticide product label is being used, a handler employer must ensure that the handler is monitored visually or by voice communication at least every 2 hours.



Communicate continuously with handlers using fumigants in enclosed spaces 170.505(d)



When a handler is using a fumigant pesticide product in an enclosed space production area, a handler employer must ensure that the handler maintains continuous visual or voice contact with another handler stationed immediately outside of the enclosed space. The handler stationed outside of the enclosed space must have immediate access to and be able to use the PPE required by the fumigant product labeling for applicators in case there is a need to assist or rescue the handler making the application.

Fumigant – Any pesticide product that is a vapor or gas, or forms a vapor or gas on application, and whose method of pesticidal action is through the gaseous state.

Fumigants will most likely have label restrictions that are more restrictive than WPS including the label-required Fumigant Management Plan.

Remember: If the pesticide product labeling contains specific instructions or requirements that conflict with the requirements of the Worker Protection Standard, follow the instructions or requirements on the labeling.