Introduction to the EPA Worker Protection Standard

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What is the EPA Worker Protection Standard?

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation originally issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1992 and most recently revised in 2015. This regulation is primarily intended to reduce the risks of illness or injury to workers and handlers resulting from occupational exposures to pesticides used in the production of agricultural plants¹ on agricultural establishments².

The WPS requires agricultural employers to provide specific information and protections to workers, handlers and other persons when WPS-labeled pesticide products³ are used on agricultural establishments in the production of agricultural plants.



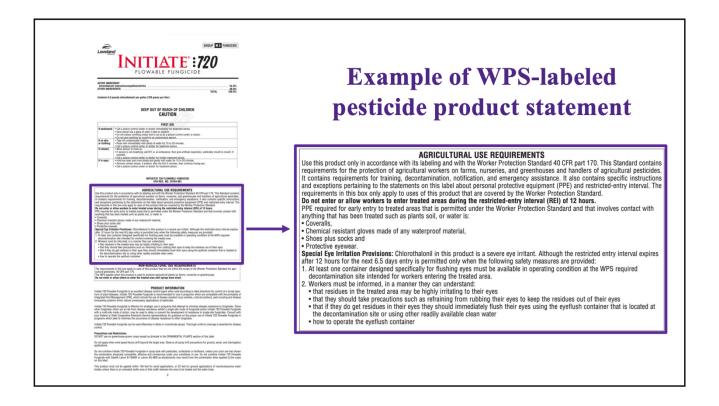


¹ Any plant, or part thereof, grown, maintained, or otherwise produced for commercial purposes, including growing, maintaining or otherwise producing plants for sale, trade, for research or experimental purposes, or for use in part or their entirety in another location. Agricultural plant includes, but is not limited to, grains, fruits and vegetables; wood fiber or timber products; flowering and foliage plants and trees; seedlings and transplants; and turf grass produced for sod. Agricultural plant does not include pasture or rangeland used for grazing.

² Any farm, forest operation, or nursery engaged in the outdoor or enclosed space production of agricultural plants. An establishment that is not primarily agricultural is an agricultural establishment if it produces agricultural plants for transplant or use (in part or their entirety) in another location instead of purchasing the agricultural plants.

³ A pesticide product that contains an AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS box under DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

Example of WPS-labeled pesticide product statement



Where can I get more information and training materials?

All educational and training materials are available online through the Pesticide Educational Resources

Collaborative (visit https://www.pesticideresources.org/).



