Worker Protection Standards

What is the Worker Protection Standard?

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a federal regulation intended to reduce the risks of illness or injury from pesticide exposure in the production of an agriculture commodity. When the WPS applies, agricultural employers are required to provide safety education and protections to workers, handlers, and other persons onsite. This may include but is not limited to:

- Pesticide Safety Training (for workers and handlers)
- Pesticide Safety, Application and Hazard Information
- Application Restrictions: Restricted -Entry Intervals (REIs) and Ventilation Criteria
- Notice About Applications (Posted Warning Signs or Oral Warnings)
- Decontamination Supplies
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Emergency Assistance
- Anti-Retaliation

WPS applies when a pesticide product label contains an "Agricultural-Use Requirements" box, and the product is used at an agricultural establishment to produce an agricultural commodity.

AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR 170. This standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment, restricted-entry intervals and notification of workers.

The Pesticide Educational Resource Collaborative (PERC) is a comprehensive resource for WPS compliance assistance materials. Visit the website http://pesticideresources.org/ to determine if WPS is applicable to your establishment.

Questions

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development enforces laws and regulations for pesticide use in Michigan. For further information regarding pesticides and other areas regulated by MDARD, visit www.michigan.gov/mdardpest, or call 800-292-3939 and ask to be referred to your local pesticide inspector. MDARD inspectors are available to provide compliance assistance.