

Interpreting PPE Statements on Pesticide Labels¹

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Many Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements on pesticide labels have been changed as a result of the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides (WPS). PPE statements on products that are labeled for use on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, in particular, have been revised. These revised statements are more precise on the type of PPE that must be worn by pesticide handlers (mixers, loaders, and applicators). The terminology used to describe the required PPE is now more consistent from label to label. The following chart lists **LABEL STATEMENTS** used to describe PPE required for use by mixers, loaders, and applicators. The accompanying column of **ACCEPTABLE PPE** describes the options the pesticide handler has when the label statement lists a specific item of PPE. Table 1 lists statements related to Body Protection, Table 2 shows the Hand Protection statements, Table 3 lists the Eye Protection statements, while Table 4 shows the Foot Protection. Table 5 lists the Respiratory Protection statements and Table 6 shows the Head Protection statements.

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The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee or warranty of the products named, and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable composition. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow directions on the manufacturer's label.

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Table 1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements—Body Protection

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Long-sleeved shirt and long pants	Long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or Woven or nonwoven coverall, or Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or Rubber or plastic suit.
Coverall worn over short-sleeved shirt and short pants	Coverall worn over short-sleeved shirt and short pants, or Coverall worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or Coverall worn over another coverall, or Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or Rubber or plastic suit.
Coverall worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants	Coverall worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or Coverall worn over another coverall, or Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or Rubber or plastic suit.
Chemical-resistant apron worn over coverall or over long-sleeved shirt and long pants	Chemical-resistant apron worn over coverall or over long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or Barrier-coated coverall, or Rubber or plastic suit.
Chemical-resistant protective suit	Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or Rubber or plastic suit.
Waterproof suit or liquidproof suit	Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or Rubber or plastic suit.

Table 2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements—Hand Protection

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Waterproof gloves	Any rubber or plastic gloves sturdy enough to remain intact throughout the task being performed.
Chemical-resistant glove	Barrier-laminate gloves or Other gloves that glove section charts or guidance documents indicate are chemical-resistant to the pesticide for the period of time required to perform the task.
Chemical-resistant gloves such as butyl or nitrile	Butyl gloves, or Nitrile gloves, or Other gloves that glove selection charts or guidance documents indicate are chemical-resistant to the pesticide for the period of time required to perform the task.

Table 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements—Eye Protection

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Protective eyewear	Shielded safety glasses, or Face shield, or Goggles, or Full-face respirator.
Goggles	Goggles, or Full-face respirator.

Table 4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements—Foot Protection

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Shoes	Leather, canvas, or fabric shoes, or Chemical-resistant shoes, or Chemical-resistant boots, or Chemical-resistant shoe coverings (booties)
Chemical-resistant boots	Chemical-resistant boots

Table 5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements—Respiratory Protection

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Cartridge respirator	Respirator with organic vapor removing cartridge and pesticide prefilter, or Respirator with canister approved for pesticides, or Air-supplying respirator
Air-supplying respirator or self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)	Air-supplying respirator or Self-contained breathing apparatus
Dust/mist filtering respirator	Dust/mist filtering respirator, or Respirator with dust/mist filtering cartridge, or Respirator with organic vapor removing cartridge and pesticide prefilter, or Air-supplying respirator
Canister respirator (gas mask)	Respirator with canister approved for pesticides or Air-supplying respirator

Table 6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements—Head Protection

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Chemical-resistant hood or wide-brimmed hat	Rubber or plastic-coated safari-style hat, or Rubber or plastic-coated fire-fighter style hat, or Plastic- or other barrier-coated hood, or Rubber or plastic hood, or Full hood or helmet that is part of some respirators.