

# Worker Protection Standard: Employer Information Exchange<sup>1</sup>

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*The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a Federal regulation designed to protect agricultural workers (people involved in the production of agricultural plants) and pesticide handlers (people mixing, loading, or applying pesticides or doing other tasks involving direct contact with pesticides). It has been in full implementation since 1995. A complete reference for the WPS is provided by How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides: What Employers Need to Know. <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/epa-735-b-05-002.pdf>*

## Introduction

Employers of commercial pesticide handlers must make sure that their customers—the operators of farms, forests, nurseries, or greenhouses—know certain information about the pesticides to be applied on their establishments. At the same time, the customers (agricultural employers) must give the commercial handler's employer specific information concerning treated areas.

## What the Agricultural Employer Needs to Know

The employers of commercial pesticide handlers must inform their customers (the agricultural employer) about:

- The specific location and description of the area(s) that are to be treated with a pesticide;
- Time and date the pesticide is scheduled to be applied;
- Product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredient(s);
- Restricted-entry interval for the pesticide;
- Whether the pesticide labeling requires both treated-area posting and oral notification; and
- Any other specific requirements on the pesticide labeling concerning protection of workers and other persons during or after application.

Agricultural employers must have this information to protect their employees. See UF/IFAS EDIS Documents PI-107, Worker Protection Standard: Notice about Applications (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI144>), and PI-112, Worker Protection Standard: Information at a Central Location (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI149>).

## What the Commercial Pesticide Handler's Employer Needs to Know

The operators of agricultural establishments must inform hired commercial pesticide handler employers of the

1. This document is PI-115, one of a series of the Agronomy Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date April 2006. Reviewed September 2015. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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Use pesticides safely. Read and follow directions on the manufacturer's label.

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location and description of areas that may have already been treated with a pesticide or are under a restricted-entry interval. Employers of commercial pesticide handlers must have this information to protect their employees. For example, if custom applicators are scheduled to use ground equipment to apply a pesticide on a farm, they need to be informed of any nearby areas on the farm that they should stay out of because the area has a restricted-entry interval in effect. Or if commercial crop advisors are scheduled to scout in an area on a farm that remains under a restricted-entry interval, they need to be told what personal protective equipment they must wear while in that area.

## **Additional information**

- Fishel, F.M. 2006. Worker Protection Standard: Information at a Central Location. UF/IFAS EDIS Extension Document PI-112. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi149>.
- Fishel, F.M. 2006. Worker Protection Standard: Notice about Applications. UF/IFAS EDIS Extension Document PI-107. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi144>.
- How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides: What Employers Need to Know. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Revised 2005. <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/epa-735-b-05-002.pdf>.
- UF/IFAS EDIS Topics Menu: Worker Protection Standard. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC\\_WPS](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_WPS).