



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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FEDERAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

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This fact sheet lists the necessary detailed information required under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for field signs.

This fact sheet was developed as part of the Comprehensive Worker Protection Standard Awareness Project for Colorado.

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WPS Required Measurements for Field Signs

The [Worker Protection Standard](#) (WPS) was revised and expanded in 1992 by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)(EPA). This regulation applies where pesticides are used in production of agricultural plants for commercial or research purposes on farms, forests, nurseries, greenhouses, and related structures. It covers pesticide applicators, mixer/loaders, disposers of pesticide containers, and those who may be exposed to a pesticide residue on the job. Both general-use and restricted-use pesticides are covered by WPS. The regulations have exposure reduction measures that will reduce the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.

Notification about Applications

WPS regulations require by law that owners of agricultural establishments inform agricultural employees where pesticides have been applied. If employees are within 1/4 mile during a pesticide application or while the REI is in effect, employers are required to provide notification about applications *before the application takes place*. This is to protect workers so they do not enter fields which have been sprayed and are under REI. Some pesticides require verbal or written notification while other pesticides require both. The type of notification required will be indicated on the label. Directions on the label for both forms of notification are located under the heading *Agricultural Use Requirements*. The employer is responsible for notifying all workers which form of notification will be used.

If employees are not involved with the treatment or are not going to be in a 1/4 of a mile vicinity of the treated area or if the employee who applied or supervised the application is aware of all required information, no notification is required. However, the application must be recorded and listed at the Central Location.

Field signs must be visible from all usual worker entry points to the treated area. If there are no usual points of entry, the employer must post the signs at every corner of the treated area for maximum visibility. The field sign should be posted no earlier than 24 hours before application and removed within three (3) days after the end of the REI.

The following information details the WPS regulations for the written notification requirements or the warning sign surrounding the treated area in order to warn employees of pesticide applications and REI's. See Factsheet [WPS Regulations for Notification about Applications](#).

Required Words

- The words “DANGER—PELIGRO” and “PESTICIDES—PESTICIDAS” must be located at the top of the sign and “KEEP OUT—NO ENTRE” at the bottom.
- The words must be clearly legible
- Other languages used most frequently by the workers may replace the Spanish words as long as the English portion of the sign follows all previous requirements

Required Design

The signs must be at least 14 inches high by 16 inches and the letters must be at least 1 inch high.

- A circle containing an upraised hand on the left and a stern face on the right must be in the center of the sign (the length of the hand must be at least twice the height of the smallest letters and the length of the face must be only slightly smaller than the hand)
- The background outside of the circle must contrast in color with the inside of the circle
- The hand and a large portion of the face must also contrast in color with the inside of the circle
- The remainder of the inside of the circle must be red

Additional Information

Any additional information may be included on the warning sign such as the name of the pesticide and the date of application as long as that information does not detract from the appearance of the sign or change the meaning of the required information.

Greenhouses and Nurseries Sign Requirements

Smaller warning signs may be used in *Greenhouses* and *Nurseries*. Signs measuring 4.5 by 5 inches can be used if the distance between the signs is 25 feet or less. If the distance between the signs is 50 feet or less, the signs used should be approximately 7 by 8 inches. In addition, signs may be smaller if the treated area is too small to accommodate 14 by 16 inch signs. For example, if a single pot needs to be posted, a smaller sign would be appropriate. See the above design requirements for greenhouse and nursery field signs.

Disclaimer: The Worker Protection Standard is a very complex regulation that will require considerable study. This fact sheet is just an introduction and should not be used as a final interpretation. Refer to the complete WPS regulations in the [Code of Federal Register 40 Part 170](#).

Ordering Information

U.S. EPA National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center (Ag Center)

- Main Office
Address: 901 N. 5th St., Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Phone: 1-888-663-2155
Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/awor.html>
Fax: (913) 551-7270

GEMPLER'S

- Main Office
Address: P.O. Box 44993, Madison, Wisconsin 53744
Phone: 1-800-382-8473
Internet: <http://www.gemplers.com>
Fax: 1-800-551-1128

References and Resources

EPA's Agriculture Compliance Center. June 2005. www.epa.gov/agriculture

The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How to Comply, What Employers Need to Know. July 1993. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 735-B-93-001, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Labor Affairs, Office of the Chief Economist. March 2001. www.usda.gov/oce/labor-affairs/wkrprot.htm

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