

Educational Materials for the Worker Protection Standard

Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 5

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Scope of the Regulation

In 1992 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a comprehensive set of criteria called the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). This regulation applies to farms, forests, nurseries, greenhouses, and related structures. It covers pesticide applicators, mixer/loaders, and persons who work in treated areas of these operations and may be exposed to pesticide residues on the job.

Training Requirements

The WPS requires certain pesticide safety training of both handlers and workers. WPS training must be presented orally in a language that handlers and workers can understand, it must incorporate the use of appropriate visual aids, and the trainer must be available to answer questions. Consult Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 17, "Worker Protection Standards: A Checklist for Trainers," for tips on conducting effective training.

Workers and handlers may be trained each time they work for a different employer, or they may complete a "verifiable training" program, wherein trainees are issued wallet-sized cards that serve as proof of training. Use of training materials produced or approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required if a trainer wishes to provide verifiable training; otherwise, trainers may develop their own materials.

Purpose of this Leaflet

This publication lists training materials currently available for use by trainers of handlers and workers. Unless otherwise noted, all of the training materials listed are EPA-approved for use in WPS training. Also listed are materials related to other WPS provisions. Due to rapid changes in availability of WPS training materials, there may be additional materials and additional sources not listed here, and prices may change.

Handler Training

A pesticide **handler** is a commercial applicator, crop advisor, or a person who works for salary, wages, or other compensation and who handles pesticides. Handlers include people who mix, load, or handle open pesticide containers; apply pesticides; incorporate soil-applied pesticides; work on pesticide application equipment; act as a flagger, or work as a scout on treated fields or sites.

Required training topics include: format and meaning of pesticide label information; hazards resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization; exposure routes; signs and symptoms of common pesticide poisoning; first aid for pesticide poisonings; how to obtain emergency medical care; routine and emergency decontamination procedures; need for and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE); prevention, recognition, and treatment of heat-related illness; safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides; environmental concerns; warnings about taking pesticides or their containers home; requirements that must be followed by handler employers for the protection of handlers and others, including the prohibition against applying pesticides in a manner that will cause contact with workers or others, use of PPE, provisions for training and decontamination, and protection against retaliatory acts.

Worker Training

An agricultural **worker** is defined as a person who works for salary, wages, or other compensation and who must enter a field or area treated within the past 30 days to perform tasks such as harvesting, weeding, cultivating, watering, pruning, etc. related to the production of an agricultural plant.

Required training topics include: where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities; hazards resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization; exposure routes; signs and symptoms of common pesticide poisoning; first aid for pesticide poisonings; how to obtain emergency medical care; routine and emergency decontamination procedures; hazards from chemigation and drift; hazards from pesticide residues on clothing; warnings about taking pesticides or their containers home; requirements of the WPS designed to reduce the risks of illness or injury resulting from workers' occupational exposure to pesticides, including application and entry restrictions, design of the warning sign, posting of warning signs, oral warnings, availability of specific information about applications, and protection against retaliatory acts.

**WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS MATERIALS FOR
GROWERS/EMPLOYERS**

-- Sources appear on the last page of this publication.--

1. **WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES: HOW TO COMPLY -- WHAT EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW.** EPA/Univ. of Florida, 1993. This manual explains employers' responsibilities under the WPS. The manual is not a training aid for workers or handlers who need to be trained.
Availability:
Government Printing Office
Document no. GPO-055-000-00442-1 -- \$8.50/copy; 25% discount on orders of 100 or more

Gempler's, Inc. -- 2 versions available
#HW40 -- basic manual (meets requirements) -- 55¢/copy; discount for large orders
#EPA HTC -- same as above, but with additional technical articles on pesticide safety and with advertising -- \$1.95/copy; discount for large orders
2. **QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE.** EPA, 1993. This poster-sized guide is simply a summary of what growers/employers must do to comply with the WPS. It does not provide training and it should not be confused with the poster that is required to be displayed in work places. It may serve as a useful reminder, but cannot be relied on as the only source of compliance information.
Availability:
Government Printing Office
Doc. no. 055-000-00445-5 -- \$1.00/copy

Gempler's, Inc.
#P977 -- 75¢ each; discount for large orders
3. **PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PESTICIDES: SAFETY TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS -- TRAINING NOTEBOOK.** EPA, 1993. This 34-page booklet is aimed at **trainers**; it does not provide training for either handlers or workers. It presents background on the WPS requirements and offers tips on effective training.
Availability:
Gempler's, Inc.
#HW55 -- \$1.95/copy; discount for large orders
4. **PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PESTICIDES -- GUIDE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.** EPA, 1993. This 44-page guide, commonly referred to as the "worker handbook," contains English and Spanish versions in one booklet and meets the WPS requirements for training **workers**. If this handbook is used as the sole training aid, the trainer should cover the material orally while the workers follow along in the book. Ideally, each worker should be given a copy of the handbook to keep.
Availability:
Government Printing Office
Document no. GPO-055-000-00443-9 -- \$3.00/copy; 25% discount on orders of 100 or more

Gempler's, Inc.
#HW20 -- 49¢ each; discount for large orders

Gempler's has the workers' handbook available in Creole (Haitian), Vietnamese, Ilokano, Laotian, Chinese, and Tagalog. For availability of the handbook in Korean or Phillipian, contact Ms. Allie Fields, US EPA

5. **PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PESTICIDES -- SAFETY TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FLIP CHART.** EPA/Univ. of Florida, 1994. This is essentially the material from the above-listed handbook transformed into a flip chart to train **workers**. The flip chart can be hung over the trainer's arm or can be set on a flat surface, showing pictures to the audience and text and discussion to the trainer. This should be a very good training tool for employees with limited reading skills, since it's all in pictures. Ideally, the flip chart is used in combination with the worker handbooks listed above. Workers can follow along in the handbook as the trainer covers the material on the flip chart.
Availability:
 University of Florida Publications
 #SM48 -- \$30.00/copy; discount for large quantities

 Gempler's, Inc. -- 2 versions available
 #FC100 -- "professional grade" -- laminated paper, \$29.95
 #FC198 -- "grower's grade" -- not laminated, but heavy paper \$19.95

6. **SIGUIENDO EL SOL / CHASING THE SUN.** National Migrant Resource Program, Inc., 1994. This video was produced using a mix of English and Spanish so that a mixed audience can understand it. All important concepts are covered in both languages. The 36-minute video meets all of the requirements contained in EPA's worker Protection Standard for training agricultural **workers**.
Availability:
 Gempler's, Inc.
 #V210 -- \$29.95/copy; discount for large orders

7. **PESTICIDE SAFETY WORKER PROTECTION.** Univ. of Idaho, 1993. This video tape contains both English and Spanish versions on one tape. When used with the supplemental leaflet provided with each copy of the video, the set meets all of the requirements contained in EPA's worker Protection Standard for training both agricultural **workers** and pesticide **handlers**. The supplemental information must be covered separately by the trainer! The video is divided into two sections: the first section pertains to both agricultural workers and pesticide handlers; the second is extra information necessary for handlers (English: Agricultural Worker - 16:55 minutes, Pesticide Handler - 13:38 minutes; Spanish: Agricultural Worker - 18:54, Pesticide Handler - 15:37 minutes). Remember you will need to show both units to train **handlers**.
Availability:

Univ. of Idaho Ag Communications Center	Gempler's, Inc.
#677 -- \$19.95 + \$3.00 shipping and handling	#V100 -- \$29.95/copy; discount for large orders

8. **PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PESTICIDES -- GUIDE FOR AGRICULTURAL HANDLERS.** EPA, 1994. This 101-page guide, commonly referred to as the "handler handbook," meets the WPS requirements for training **handlers**. If this handbook is used as the sole training aid, the trainer should cover the material orally while the handlers follow along in the book. Ideally, each handler should receive a copy.
Availability:
 Government Printing Office
 Document no. and price unknown at this time

 Gempler's, Inc.
 #HW30 (English version) -- 95¢/copy; discount for large orders
 #HW35 (Spanish version) -- 95¢/copy; discount for large orders

9. **PESTICIDE HANDLERS AND THE WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD.** Michigan State Univ., 1994. This 50-minute video is approved by EPA for **handler** training. The video is divided into 16 segments; trainers are encouraged to divide the video into 2 parts, taking questions in the intermission and at the end. Also available in Spanish.
Availability:
 Gempler's, Inc.
 #V400 -- \$29.95/copy; discount for large orders

10. **SAFETY POSTER.** EPA, 1993. This poster meets WPS requirements for posting at a central location on agricultural establishments. It uses simple drawings and the text is in Spanish as well as English. This is the training poster, not a warning sign for treated areas.
Availability:
 Government Printing Office
 Document no. GPO-055-000-00444-7 -- \$1.50 each; 25% discount on orders of 100 or more

 Gempler's, Inc. -- 2 versions available
 #P928 -- printed on card stock -- \$1.50/copy; discount for large orders
 #P928L -- laminated -- \$6.50/copy; discount for large orders
11. **WARNING SIGN.** EPA-approved warning sign for posting treated areas.
Availability:
 Gempler's, Inc.
 Price varies depending on design chosen and number ordered.

 Automatic Flagman Co.
 \$2.98 each; \$2.59 each for 10 or more

 Star Graphics, Inc.
 Price varies depending on design chosen and number ordered.
12. **SMALL WARNING SIGN** for posting individual potted plants, greenhouse benches, and certain nursery situations.
Availability:
 Gempler's, Inc.
 #D3318 -- 37¢ each
13. **FUMIGANT WARNING SIGN** that meets WPS requirements.
Availability:
 Gempler's, Inc.
 #V600 -- \$2.75 each
14. **SAMPLER OF WPS TRAINING MATERIALS** contains 1 of each of the following: How to Comply Manual (#1 above), Quick Reference Guide (#2 above), Training Notebook (#3 above), Worker Handbook (#4 above), flip chart (#5 above), Handler Handbook (#7 above), safety poster (#8 above),.
Availability:
 Gempler's, Inc.
 #1499A -- \$23.00/kit
15. **DECONTAMINATION KIT** designed to provide all decontamination materials necessary to comply with WPS. An insulated carrying case contains two 1.25-gallon containers for potable water; one 4-oz. bottle of liquid soap; three large single-use towels; one disposable coverall; and two 32-oz. bottles of sterile, buffered, isotonic eye wash solution. Note that an employer can comply with WPS simply by having the appropriate items at a decontamination site. Having a commercially available decontamination kit is not a requirement, but it may be more convenient.
Availability:
 Precision Laboratories, Inc.
 \$99.50/kit; discount for large orders

SOURCES OF WPS MATERIALS

Ms. Allie Fields
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Pesticide Programs [7506C]
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone no. 703-305-7666

Automatic Flagman Company
Route 4, Box 217 - Airport
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone no. 509-525-4190

Gempler's, Inc.
Phone no. 800-382-8473
FAX no. 800-551-1128

Government Printing Office
Phone no. 202-783-3238

Precision Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 127
Northbrook, IL 60065
Phone no. 800-323-6280
FAX no. 312-498-1176

Star Graphics, Inc.
113 N. Findlay Pike
Portage, OH 43451

University of Florida Publications
IFAS Building 664
P.O. Box 11011
Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone no. 1-800-226-1764
FAX no. 904-392-2628

University of Idaho Ag Communications Center
Moscow, ID 83844-2332
Phone no. 208-885-6436