The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It covers pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. The WPS requires you, the employer, to take steps to reduce the risk of pesticide-related illness and injury if you, your family, or your employees use or are exposed to such pesticides.

If you are an agricultural pesticide user and/or employer of agricultural workers or pesticide handlers, the WPS requires you to provide to your employees and, in some cases, to yourself and to others (1) information about exposure to pesticides; (2) protection against exposure to pesticides; and (3) ways to mitigate exposures to pesticides.

In Pennsylvania, the Department of Agriculture (PDA) is responsible for the enforcement of the WPS. PDA is working with the Penn State Pesticide Education Office and numerous agricultural associations to provide outreach services and educational materials to agricultural employers and workers.

### WPS Definitions

The following definitions will help you determine whether you or your business operation is affected by the requirements of the EPA WPS.

**Agricultural plants**: Plants grown or maintained for commercial or research purposes. Examples are food, feed, and fiber plants, trees, turfgrass, flowers, shrubs, ornamentals, and seedlings.

**Farms**: Operations, other than nurseries or forests, that produce agricultural plants outdoors.

**Forests**: Operations that produce agricultural plants outdoors for wood, fiber, or timber products.

**Greenhouses**: Operations that produce agricultural plants indoors in an area that is enclosed with nonporous covering and is large enough to allow a person to enter. Examples are plastic houses, mushroom houses and caves, and rhubarb houses, as well as traditional greenhouses. Malls, atriums, conservatories, arboretums, and office buildings that grow or maintain plants primarily for decorative or environmental benefits are not included; however, growing areas in arboretums, conservatories, botanical gardens, and other similar facilities where plants are produced for sale or are intended for use in display areas are covered under the WPS.

**Nurseries**: Operations that produce agricultural plants outdoors for: (1) transplanting to another location, or (2) flower or fern cuttings. Examples are flowering and foliage plantings or trees; tree seedlings; live Christmas trees; vegetable, fruit, and ornamental transplants; and turfgrass produced for sod.

**Crop advisor**: Any person who is assessing pest populations, damage, distribution, status, condition, or requirements of agricultural plants. Examples are crop/IPM consultants and field scouts.

**Restricted-entry interval (REI)**: The restricted-entry interval is the time immediately after a pesticide application when entry into the treated area is limited. Some pesticides have one REI, such as 12 hours, for all crops and uses. Other products have different REIs depending on the crop or method of application. When two (or more) pesticides with different REIs are applied at the same time, you must follow the longer interval.

**Workers**: Anyone who is (1) employed for compensation (including self-employed); (2) performing tasks such as harvesting, pruning, weeding, or watering in the production of agricultural plants.

**Pesticide handlers**: Anyone who is (1) employed for compensation; (2) performing tasks such as mixing, loading, or applying pesticides; assisting in pesticide applications, cleaning; repairing or adjusting spray equipment, or acting as a flagger.

**Hand labor**: Any agricultural activity performed by hand or with hand tools that might cause a worker to have substantial contact with surfaces (such as plants, plant parts, or soil) that may contain pesticide residues. Examples of hand labor tasks include harvesting, detasseling, thinning,
weeding, topping, planting, sucker removal, pruning, disbudding, roguing, and packing produce into containers in the field.

**Centrally Located Information about Pesticide Application**

**Basic Responsibilities**

Employers of workers must make sure that certain information, described below, is displayed at a central location whenever (1) any worker whom they employ is on their agricultural establishment, and (2) a pesticide is about to be applied or has been recently applied.

Agricultural establishments that employ their own handlers must make sure that certain information, described below, is displayed at a central location whenever (1) any worker whom they employ is on their agricultural establishment, and (2) a pesticide is about to be applied or has been recently applied.

**Specific Duties**

**What information must be displayed?**

The following three types of information must be displayed:

1. Application list, which must include:
   a. the location and description of the area to be treated
   b. product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredient(s) of the pesticide
   c. time and date the pesticide is scheduled to be applied
   d. restricted-entry interval for the pesticide
2. Emergency information, which must include the name, telephone number, and address of the nearest emergency medical facility.
3. A pesticide safety poster, which must be either the WPS safety poster developed by EPA or an equivalent poster that contains the concepts displayed on the WPS safety poster.

**Where must the information be displayed?**

Display all of the required information in one central location on your agricultural establishment where it can be easily seen and read by workers and handlers.

**Exception:** If the workplace is a forest, you may display the information near the forest. It must be in a location where workers and handlers can easily see and read it and where they are likely to gather or pass by. For example, you might display the information at a decontamination site or an equipment storage site.

**When must the information be displayed?**

Display the information whenever any worker or handler you employ is on your agricultural establishment and, in the past 30 days, a pesticide has been applied or a restricted-entry interval has been in effect.

1. If workers or handlers are on your establishment at the start of an application, record the required pesticide-specific information on the application list and display it before the application takes place.
2. If workers or handlers are not on your establishment at the start of an application, display pesticide-specific information no later than the beginning of their first work period.
3. Continue to display pesticide-specific information when workers or handlers are on your establishment until:
   a. at least 30 days after the restricted-entry interval expires
   b. at least 30 days after the end of the application, if there is no restricted-entry interval for the pesticide

**Other responsibilities**

1. Tell workers and handlers where the information is located.
2. Give workers and handlers access to the information.
3. Be sure that the poster, emergency information, and application list remain legible during the time they are posted.
4. Promptly inform workers if there is any change in the information on emergency medical facilities, and update the emergency information listed with the poster.

**Restricted-Entry Interval Requirements**

Under the WPS, each agricultural pesticide label will specify a restricted-entry interval (REI), usually ranging from 4 to 72 hours; some labels may specify a longer REI. The REI begins immediately after the pesticide application. Under no circumstances are workers permitted to enter a treated area during the first 4 hours following a pesticide application. You must keep workers out of a treated area during the REI, except in the following situations:

**Exception for Limited Contact Activities**

Under specified conditions, the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) allows workers to enter pesticide treated areas during a restricted-entry interval (REI) to perform tasks that involve limited contact with pesticide treated surfaces.

This exception gives workers the flexibility to perform limited contact tasks during an REI, including irrigation tasks, that could not have been foreseen and which, if delayed, would cause significant economic loss. At the same time, the exception includes significant provisions to limit pesticide exposure and risk to employees performing limited contact tasks. The conditions of the exception for limited contact/irrigation early entry activities are as follows:

1. The workers’ contact with treated surfaces is minimal and is limited to the feet, lower legs, hands, and forearms.
2. The pesticide product does not have a statement in the labeling requiring double notification (workers must be notified of these high toxicity pesticides both verbally and by posting).
3. Personal protective equipment for early entry is provided to the worker and must either conform with the label requirements or include at least coveralls, chemical resistant gloves, socks, chemical resistant footwear, and eyewear (if eyewear is required by the product labeling).
4. No hand labor activity (such as hoeing, picking, pruning, etc.) is performed.
5. The time in treated areas under a REI for any worker may not exceed eight hours in a 24-hour period.
The workers do not enter the area during the first 4 hours, and until applicable ventilation criteria have been met, and until any label specified inhalation exposure level has been reached.

Before workers enter a treated area under a REI, the agricultural employer shall give them oral or written notification of the specifics of the exception to early entry. The notification must be in a language that the workers understand.

Tasks During an Agricultural Emergency

Early entry workers may enter treated areas before the restricted-entry interval is over to do tasks that are necessary because of an agricultural emergency, if provided with the protections and PPE required for an early entry. Each worker must do the following:

1. Do only those tasks needed to mitigate the emergency.
2. Wait at least four hours after the pesticide application is complete before entering the treated area.
3. Wait at least until any inhalation exposure level listed on the product labeling has been reached or any WPS ventilation criteria have been met.

When PPE is required under the WPS, the employer must do the following:

1. Provide the PPE to each early entry worker or handler.
2. Clean and maintain PPE.
3. Make sure that each person wears and uses the PPE correctly.
4. Provide each person with a clean place to put on, take off, and store the PPE.
5. Take action, if necessary, to prevent heat-related illness while the PPE is being worn.
6. Provide soap, single use towels, and water to each person at the end of the handling activity when the PPE is removed.
7. Prevent any person from wearing or taking home contaminated PPE, unless proper instruction has been given regarding the washing and care of PPE.

The type of PPE necessary depends upon the specific application and the type of application equipment being used. Although every pesticide is different and the label should be consulted to determine the PPE requirements for each chemical, some general rules apply for choosing PPE according to the different pesticide toxicity levels found in Table 1.

Proper cleaning and maintenance of PPE is just as important as making sure that PPE is available to early entry workers and handlers. Employers must instruct persons who clean or launder PPE to keep pesticide-contaminated PPE away from other clothing or laundry, and wash it separately.

In addition, employers are required to perform the following tasks:

1. If PPE will be reused, clean it before each day of reuse according to the instructions from the PPE manufacturer. If instructions are unavailable, wash PPE with detergent in hot water.
2. Thoroughly wash and dry all PPE before it is reused or stored.
3. Store clean PPE separate from personal clothing and away from pesticide contaminated areas. PPE that has been soaked or otherwise heavily contaminated should be discarded.

In regard to the proper care of respiratory PPE, employers must:

1. replace dust/mist respirator filters: a. when breathing becomes difficult

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### Table 1. Minimum PPE and work clothing for pesticide-handling activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route of Exposure</th>
<th>Toxicity Category of End-Use Product</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermal toxicity</td>
<td>Coveralls worn over long-sleeved shirts and long pants</td>
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<td>or skin irritation potential</td>
<td>Socks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chemical-resistant footwear</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chemical-resistant gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalation toxicity</td>
<td>Respiratory protection device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protective eyewear</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
b. if the filter is damaged or torn
c. whenever the respirator manufacturer or pesticide labeling says to replace them
d. at the end of each day’s work period if no other instructions regarding service life are available

2. replace gas-and-vapor-removing respirators or canisters:
   a. at the first sign of odor, taste, or irritation
   b. when the respirator manufacturer or pesticide labeling says to replace them
   c. at the end of each day’s work period if no other instructions regarding service life are available

EPA WPS Required Worker Notices about Pesticide Applications

Under most circumstances, the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) requires employers to make sure that workers are notified about areas where pesticide applications are taking place or where restricted-entry intervals are in effect. Most pesticide labels allow notification either orally or by posting warning signs at entrances to treated areas. However, some pesticide labels require you to notify workers both orally and with signs posted at entrances to the treated area. If both types of notification are required, the following statement will be in the Directions for Use section of the pesticide labeling under the heading Agricultural Use Requirements: “Notify workers of the application by warning them orally and by posting warning signs at entrances to treated areas.”

Notification on Farms, Forests, and Nurseries

Unless the pesticide labeling requires both types of notification, notify workers either orally or by posting warning signs at entrances to treated areas. You must tell workers which method of notification is being used.

Notification in Greenhouses

In greenhouses, you must post all treated areas, except as described below. If the pesticide labeling requires both types of notification, you must also notify workers orally.

Exceptions to Worker Notification

1. Oral warnings need not be given to:
   a. any worker on your farm, forest, or nursery who will not be in the treated area, or walk within 1/4 mile of the treated area, during the pesticide application or while the restricted-entry interval is in effect
   b. any worker who will not be in your greenhouse during a pesticide application or while a restricted-entry interval is in effect
   c. any worker who applied (or supervised the application of) the pesticide and is aware of all of the information required to be given in the oral warning

2. Treated area posting is not required if:
   a. no workers on your farm, forest, or nursery will be in the treated area, or walk within 1/4 mile of the treated area, during the pesticide application or while the restricted-entry interval is in effect
   b. no workers will be in your greenhouse during this pesticide application or while the restricted-entry interval is in effect
   c. the only workers for whom you need to post applied (or supervised the application of) the pesticide and are aware of all the information required to be given in the oral warning

Posted Warning Signs

WPS-designed signs must be used when you post warnings at entrances to treated areas as described in the EPA WPS How to Comply Manual.

Location of signs

1. On farms, forests, and nurseries, post the signs so they can be seen from all points where workers usually enter the treated areas:
   a. access roads
   b. borders with any labor camp adjacent to the treated area
   c. established walking routes that enter the treated area

2. When there are no usual points of worker entry, post the signs in the corners of the treated area or in places where they will be most easily seen.

3. In greenhouses, post the signs so they can be seen from all points where workers usually enter the treated area, including doorways, aisles, and other walking routes. When there are no usual points of worker entry to the treated area, post the signs in the corners of the treated area or in places where they will be easily seen.

Timing and visibility of warning signs

1. Post signs 24 hours or less before the scheduled application of the pesticide.
2. Keep signs posted during application and throughout the restricted-entry interval (if any).
3. Remove signs within three days after the end of the restricted-entry interval. If there is no restricted-entry interval for that application, remove the signs within three days after the end of the application.
4. Keep workers out during the entire time the signs are posted.
5. Keep signs visible and legible while they are posted.

Posting adjoining areas

When several adjoining areas are to be treated with pesticides on a rotating or sequential basis, you may post the entire area at the same time. Worker entry, except for early entry permitted by the WPS, is prohibited for the entire area while the signs are posted.

Design and size

1. Each warning sign must look like the one on the following page.
2. You may put additional information on the warning sign, such as the name of the pesticide or the date of application, if it does not lessen the impact of the sign or change the meaning of the required information. If you add the required information in other languages, the words must be translated correctly. Employers are also permitted to replace the Spanish language on signs with another language if that language is used most often by workers in a particular location. The English portion of the sign cannot be removed.
3. Under most circumstances, signs must be at least 14 inches by 16 inches, and the letters must be at least 1 inch high. EPA does, however, allow the use of smaller warning signs in nurseries and greenhouses. Signs of approximately 4 1/2 by 5 inches can be used if the distance between signs is 25 feet or less; signs of approximately 7 by 8 inches can be used if the distance between signs is 50 feet or less. Growers may use small signs at any time if the treated area is too small to accom-
modate standard sized signs. For example, when a single potted plant needs to be posted, a small sign would be appropriate.

Oral Warnings to Workers
1. Content of oral warnings must include:
   a. the location and description of the treated area
   b. the time during which entry is restricted
   c. instructions not to enter the treated area until the restricted-entry interval has expired
2. Oral warnings must be communicated to workers in a language that they understand.
3. The oral warnings must be given during the following time periods:
   a. Workers who are on your establishment at the start of an application must be orally warned before the application takes place.
   b. Workers who are not on your establishment at the start of an application must be orally warned at the beginning of their first work period if (1) the application is still taking place, or (2) the restricted-entry interval for the pesticide is in effect.

Employee Training under the Worker Protection Standard

Employers are legally responsible for protecting their workers from potential exposure to pesticides. Employers’ basic responsibilities are to inform workers about the hazards of pesticides, provide them with information regarding the pesticides that are being used, and ensure that workers know what to do in the event of exposure in order to receive proper treatment.

Training must be provided for any worker who has the potential to come into contact with pesticide treated areas, and any worker who will be applying or who will assist with the application of pesticides. Owners of the agricultural establishment, their immediate family members, certified applicators, or registered pesticide-application technicians are the only persons exempt from this WPS training requirement. Training requirements differ for workers and handlers, but their basic premise remains the same—to protect workers against pesticide exposure.

Worker Training
Workers who will enter treated areas on farms, forests, nurseries, or greenhouses must receive worker protection training. The agricultural employer shall ensure that workers receive basic pesticide safety information before they enter a treated area on the establishment if a pesticide has been applied or a restricted-entry interval has been in effect within the past 30 days. Workers can be provided with this basic safety information while they wait for the complete WPS pesticide safety training, which is required within the first five days of entering a treated area. The agricultural employer must ensure that the information is communicated to agricultural workers in a manner they can understand. Agricultural employers must be able to verify compliance with this requirement by keeping employee training records.

The basic pesticide safety information must include the following concepts:

1. Pesticides may be on or in plants, soil, or irrigation water, or in drift from nearby applications.
2. Prevent pesticides from entering your body by:
   a. following directions and/or signs about keeping out of treated or restricted areas
   b. washing before eating, drinking, using chewing gum or tobacco, or using the toilet
   c. wearing work clothing that protects the body from pesticide residues
   d. washing or showering with soap and water, shampooing hair, and putting on clean clothes after work
   e. washing work clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again
   f. washing immediately in the nearest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on the body and, as soon as
possible, showering, shampooing, and changing into clean clothes
3. Further training will be provided within five days.

The complete WPS safety training for workers includes the following topics:

1. where and in what form workers may come in contact with pesticides or pesticide residues during work related activities
2. the hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure
3. routes of pesticide entry into the body
4. signs and symptoms of pesticide poisonings
5. emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings
6. how to obtain emergency medical care
7. routine emergency decontamination procedures, including eye flush techniques
8. hazards of chemigation and drift
9. hazards of pesticide residues on clothing
10. warnings against taking pesticides or pesticide containers home
11. explanation of the WPS requirements designed to protect workers, such as notification of application and entry restrictions, availability of information about applications, and all other necessary precautions

Worker training may be conducted by anyone who:

1. is a currently certified applicator of restricted use pesticides
2. has been trained as a handler, or
3. has completed a pesticide safety train-the-trainer program, approved by a state or federal agency that has jurisdiction over WPS

Early entry workers, those who will return to the treated area before the restricted entry interval has expired, must receive training before they do any early entry task. The five day grace period for training that applies to other agricultural workers does not apply to early entry workers.

Instructions Related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Instruct early entry workers, in a language they can understand:

1. how to put on, use, and take off early entry PPE correctly
2. about the importance of washing thoroughly after removing PPE
3. how to prevent, recognize, and give correct first aid for heat illness

Labeling Information and Instructions
Inform early entry workers, in a language they can understand, about the safety information and instructions on the labeling of the pesticide(s) to which the REI applies, including:

1. human hazard statements and precautions
2. first aid
3. signs and symptoms of poisoning
4. PPE required for early entry
5. any other precautions or instructions related to safe use or early entry

Handler Training
Those persons who are applying, or in some way assisting with the application of pesticides, must be trained as handlers, including employees who may have to do repair work to pesticide application equipment. Handlers must be trained before they are allowed to complete any handling task. Training for handlers must include at least the following information:

1. format and meaning of information on pesticide labels, including safety information such as a precautionary statement about human health hazards
2. hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute effects and sensitization
3. routes of pesticide entry into the body
4. signs and symptoms of pesticide poisonings
5. emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings
6. how to obtain emergency medical care
7. need for and appropriate use of protective clothing
8. prevention, recognition, and first aid treatment of heat-related illness
9. safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides, including general procedures for spill clean up
10. environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards
11. explanation of the WPS requirements designed to protect workers, such as notification of application and entry restrictions, availability of information about applications, and all other necessary precautions

The person who conducts the training for handlers must:

1. currently be a certified applicator of restricted use pesticides, or
2. have completed a pesticide safety train-the-trainer program approved by the state or federal agency having jurisdiction over WPS.

Due to the similarities in training, employees who have been trained as handlers do not have to be trained as workers. However, employees who have received training that meets the criteria for workers must receive additional training before they perform handler related tasks.

Training must be provided in a language that workers can understand. To meet this requirement, it is acceptable for a translator to convey the information being provided by a trainer who has met the previously mentioned criteria.

WPS Decontamination and Emergency Assistance Requirements

Decontamination Site Requirements
Handler employers must make sure that a decontamination site for washing off pesticides and pesticide residues is provided to handlers while they are doing handling tasks. Worker employers must make sure that a decontamination site for washing off pesticide residues is provided to workers who are in a pesticide treated area and are doing tasks that involve contact with anything that has been treated with pesticide, including soil, water, or plant surfaces.
The WPS requires that decontamination sites be provided regardless of the number of employees. There is no exemption for employers with only a few employees. Decontamination and emergency eyewash water must, at all times when available to workers or handlers, be of a quality and temperature that will not cause illness or injury when it contacts the skin or eyes or if it is swallowed.

Worker Decontamination Sites
Sites must be located within 1/4 mile of the work area if a WPS labeled pesticide has been used within 30 days except in those cases where low risk pesticides (those with REIs of four hours or less) are used. In these cases decontamination supplies must be available for seven days. Sites must be located in an area free of spray residues. Existing facilities such as restrooms will qualify if items 1-3 below are included. Sites must have:

1. water—a minimum of one gallon of water per worker or a source of potable tap water
2. soap—for use in washing prior to eating, drinking, smoking, chewing tobacco or gum, or using bathroom facilities
3. disposable towels—for drying hands (multiple use towels are not acceptable)

Handler Decontamination Sites
Sites must be provided at the mixing site and within 1/4 mile of the application area. Sites may be in the application area if protected from drift and spray residues. Sites must have:

1. water—a minimum of three gallons per handler or a potable tap water source
2. soap and single use towels
3. a whole body wash—a means of rinsing the handler if a spill occurs
4. clean clothes or coveralls and a towel for use after a whole body wash
5. emergency eyewash if the pesticides used require protective eyewear as stated on the label; potable water may be used as eyewash

Emergency Assistance Requirements
Employers of workers and/or handlers must provide emergency assistance to anyone who is or has recently been employed as a worker/handler on their agricultural establishment if there is a reason to believe that the person has been injured or poisoned through contact with pesticides or pesticide residues.

Employers have a responsibility to make available emergency transportation to take a worker/handler from the agricultural establishment or a farm labor camp located on the establishment to an emergency medical facility able to provide treatment. Employers can “make transportation available” by taking the employee to the emergency medical facility, or by calling an emergency vehicle such as an ambulance, or by making sure the employee has a ride to the medical facility with someone else.

Employers also have a responsibility to provide emergency information concerning pesticides to any worker, handler, or treating medical personnel promptly upon request. Such information must include:

1. the product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredients for any product(s) to which the person may have been exposed
2. antidotes, first aid, statement of practical treatment, and other medical or emergency information from the label
3. a description of the way the pesticide was being used
4. the circumstances of the worker’s/handler’s exposure to the pesticide

Special Application Restriction*

Nurseries
Employers must make sure that during certain nursery applications, workers and other persons do not enter treated areas on the nursery, or in some circumstances, do not enter areas that are near the treated area. In some cases, depending on the pesticide application method, workers and other persons are prohibited from entering the pesticide-treated area plus a buffer area up to 100 feet in all directions.

Greenhouses
Employers must make sure that workers and other persons do not enter specific areas within the greenhouse during, and, in some instances, after certain greenhouse pesticide applications. After some types of pesticide applications, ventilation restrictions apply. Ventilation criteria must be met before workers may enter the pesticide-treated area.

Protections for Crop Advisors
In April 1995, EPA completed a final rule amendment to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that exempts certified or licensed crop advisors and persons under their direct supervision while performing crop advisor tasks from WPS provisions except for pesticide safety training.

Summary of Final Rule Amendment
1. Certified or licensed crop advisors and persons under their direct supervision are exempt from WPS provisions except for pesticide safety training.
2. The exemption applies only after the pesticide application ends and while performing crop advising tasks.
3. The exemption describes what constitutes “direct supervision” and the information that crop advisors must convey to those under their direct supervision.
4. Certified or licensed crop advisors may substitute pesticide safety training received during certification or licensing, if it is equivalent to WPS pesticide handler training.

Discussion
As handlers under the WPS, crop advisors may enter treated areas during application and the restricted-entry interval without time limitations, if provided with the required personal protective equipment (PPE) specified on the product labeling and other protection provided for handlers. Employees of agricultural establishments who are performing crop advisor tasks in a treated area within 30 days of the expira-

*For more complete information, refer to The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides—How to Comply Manual.
tion of the restricted-entry interval are provided the same protection as workers under WPS.

The exemption established by this action allows certified or licensed crop advisors to choose appropriate protection to be utilized while performing crop advising tasks in treated areas after the end of pesticide application.

EPA is exempting knowledgeable and experienced crop advisors, and persons under their direct supervision, from the PPE, knowledge of labeling and site specific information, decontamination, and emergency assistance requirements of the WPS after the pesticide application ends and only when performing crop advising tasks. Certified or licensed crop advisors may substitute pesticide safety training received during federal-, state-, or tribal-approved certification or licensing programs if such training is at least equivalent to the WPS training.

**Commercial Pesticide Applicators**

Commercial (custom) pesticide applicators must provide certain information about the pesticides to the owner/operator of a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse who hires them before they are applied on the agricultural establishment.

**Information for Agricultural Establishment Operators**

Commercial pesticide applicators must inform the operator of the farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse about:

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

Operators of agricultural establishments must have this information to protect their employees.

Operators of farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses similarly must provide commercial pesticide applicators certain specific information concerning previously treated areas on the agricultural establishment. This information shall include:

1. The specific location and description of any areas on the agricultural establishment:
   a. That may be treated with a pesticide or be under a restricted-entry interval while the commercial applicator will be there
   b. That the commercial applicator may be in (or walk within 1/4 mile of) treated area
   c. That have entry restrictions

Operators of commercial pesticide applicator establishments must have this information to inform and protect their employees.

**Pesticide Compliance Strategy for WPS**

The EPA WPS was developed to provide protection to agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from exposure to pesticides. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Agriculture (PDA) is the enforcement agency. To aid growers in their efforts to comply with the WPS, the PDA has provided outreach materials to all county extension offices for distribution to growers. To ensure compliance with WPS, the PDA will use the following guideline to evaluate agricultural operations for WPS compliance.

**Central Location/Pesticide Recordkeeping Review**

1. Application information—ensure that all WPS requirements are present in pesticide records as follows:
   a. Pesticide brand or product name
   b. Location and description of treated area
   c. Active ingredient
   d. Date of application and time completed
   e. Length of the re-entry interval
2. Display of the color EPA WPS safety poster at a central location.
   a. Emergency information must be listed on the poster.

b. The telephone number of the regional office of PDA must be listed on the poster.
3. Accessibility of labels or MSDS sheets.
   a. Keep labels available to meet worker and handler emergency medical needs.

**Decontamination Inspection**

1. For workers—inspect field or greenhouse areas where workers are present during the 30 days following a pesticide application or the end of the REI to ensure that:
   a. Soap, water (1 gallon per worker), and single use towels are available for decontamination
   b. The decontamination site(s) is not in an area subject to spray drift or residues
   c. The decontamination site is within 1/4 mile of the workers
2. For handlers—inspect mixing, loading and application areas, and equipment to ensure that handler decontamination requirements are met.
   a. Soap, towels, water (3 gallons per handler), clean coveralls, and whole body wash must be available.
   b. A complete PPE must be in good condition and must be properly stored and cleaned. Decontamination sites and the PPE storage area should be located in an area free from drift and pesticide residues.

**Field Inspection**

Observe workers and handlers in the field to ensure compliance with the following WPS requirements:

1. Posting
   WPS signs are in place where posting is required by the pesticide label. Ensure that no signs are up longer than 72 hours after the REI expires.
2. Oral notification
   Ensure that all workers were notified orally of all pesticide applications if required by WPS.
3. Field work
   a. Ensure that no early entry work is done within the REI except as allowed by WPS.
   b. Ensure that all PPE is being used by mixing and loading or application handlers.
   c. Evaluate the heat stress potential to determine the possibility of problems.
   d. For toxicity category I & II products, ensure that contact is made with applicator every two hours during application as required by WPS.
Training Records
1. Review worker training records to ensure that all workers were properly trained under WPS.
2. Inquire of grower as to which WPS materials were used for training.
3. Ask to see these training materials.
4. Inspect items 1–3 (above) for handler records.
5. Record the name of the WPS trainer for subsequent verification.

Postinspection Conference
1. Explain the strengths and shortcomings within the operation related to WPS.
2. When warranted, offer suggestions orally on how the establishment can reach full compliance.
3. Provide available outreach materials to the grower.
4. Explain any follow-up action related to the inspection.
a. Indicate a need for re-inspection if violations are determined.
b. Present a written report of the findings to the grower.
5. Ask the grower if he/she has any concerns or questions about WPS for the establishment.

WPS Information Sources and Compliance Assistance Material

The following publications are available from County and Regional Cooperative Extension Offices, PDA Regional Offices, and through many agricultural associations and organizations.
2. Protect Yourself from Pesticides: A Guide for Agricultural Workers (English/Spanish).
4. Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Color Safety Poster (English/Spanish)