

Safety Note #183

TOP 10 PESTICIDE USE VIOLATIONS CITED BY CAL/OSHA



The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has a list of the top ten pesticide use violations for the year 2016. Some of these pesticide use violations continue to be on the top ten annually. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) and Food and Agricultural Codes (FAC) contain regulatory requirements designed to prevent and reduce injuries and illnesses to pesticide handlers and agricultural field workers. Please review the list, and ensure your workplace is following all pesticide use requirements. Specific regulatory text for these violations can be found online at: <http://cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/subchpte.htm#a0201>

Top 10 Pesticide Use Violations Cited by Cal/OSHA

1. Pesticide Recommendation and Use - Under FAC 12973: Anyone licensed or certified to use or recommend the use of pesticides, must follow pesticide labeling and any limitations of a permit issued by the Director or Ag Commissioner. (*Note: ANR scientists conducting research may be allowed to apply pesticides at rates or on crops contrary to the label, as long as certain conditions are met and records are kept. See policy at: <http://ucanr.edu/anrhandbook281>*).
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6738: Proper use, storage, repair, cleaning and condition of PPE. Employer is required to provide PPE.
3. Respiratory Protection - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6739: Using approved respiratory equipment when required. A work site-specific written respiratory protection program is required.
4. Emergency Medical Care - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6726: Employer emergency medical care program. Posting of the location of the emergency facility. Training requirements.
5. Registration - Under FAC 11732: Persons conducting pesticide control must be registered with the County Agricultural Commissioner in each County they conduct pesticide control.
6. Service Container Labeling - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6678: All service containers are required to have a label with the following information: Name/Address of responsible person, Identity of contents, and warning words (Danger/Warning or Caution).
7. Handler Decontamination Facilities - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6734: Employer to provide sufficient water, soap, towels and clean coveralls at each facility.
8. Hazard Communication for Fieldworkers - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6761: Employer to provide required postings, labels, pesticide use records, and Safety Data Sheets.
9. Availability of Labeling - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6602: Each pesticide use site must have a copy of the registered labeling, including supplemental labels if required.
10. Handler Training - Under CCR Title 3, Section 6724: Employees handling pesticides must be trained. Employer must have a written training program. The training program must include all required training topics. A current copy of the training program and all previous copies must be maintained for two years at a central location.