

## WRITTEN TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PESTICIDE HANDLERS

Employees handling pesticides must be trained as required in Title III of the California Code of Regulations Section 6724. The following information will guide you in developing your written training program. This information is NOT comprehensive and **additional information will be needed**. Information in *italics* are suggestions of other sources of information.

- Training shall be:
  - In a manner the employee understands;
  - Be conducted pursuant to the written training program;
  - Include response to questions;
  - Completed before the employee is allowed to handle pesticides;
  - Continually updated to cover any new pesticides that will be handled; and
  - Repeated at least annually thereafter.

The requirements for training are as follows:

Section 6724 (a) Handler Training :

(a) The employer shall have a written training program. The training program shall describe the materials (e.g., study guides, pamphlets, pesticide product labeling, Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets, Material Safety Data sheets, slides, video tapes) and information that will be provided and used to train his or her employees and identify the person or firm that will provide the training. The training program shall address each of the subjects specified in subsection (b) that is applicable to the specific pesticide handling situation. The employer shall maintain a copy of the training program while in use and for two years after use, at a central location at the work place.

---

*(Print name of person or firm that will provide training)*

California Code of Regulations Section 6724(b):

The handler training shall cover, for each pesticide or chemically similar group of pesticides, to be used:

Please note: To help you determine chemically similar groups, refer to EPA publication, *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings*.

- (1) Format and meaning of information, such as precautionary statements about human health hazards (*pesticide product labeling, Pesticide Safety Series Information A-1*)
- (2) Hazards of pesticides, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization (*pesticide product labeling, Material Safety Data Sheets, or Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets*).

- (3) Routes by which pesticides can enter the body. (*Pesticide Safety Information series A4 - "First Aid and Decontamination".*)
- (4) Signs and symptoms of overexposure. (*Material safety data sheet; pesticide product label.*)
- (5) Emergency first aid for pesticide overexposure. (*Pesticide Safety Information Series A4 - "First Aid and Decontamination"; pesticide product label.*)
- (6) How to obtain emergency medical care. (*You need to write procedures to follow to obtain help.*)

---

*Write procedure above*

- (7) Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including spill clean up and the need to thoroughly shower with soap and warm water after the exposure period. (*Pesticide information Safety Series A4 - "First Aid and Decontamination"; Your insurance company or Worker's Compensation; material safety data sheet; pesticide label.*)
- (8) Need for, limitations, appropriate use, and sanitation, of any required personal protective equipment. (*Pesticide Safety Information Series A5 - "Respiratory Protection"; pesticide label; material safety data sheets; equipment instructions; California Code of Regulation, Section 6738 Personal Protective Equipment.*)
- (9) Prevention, recognition, and first aid for heat related illness. (*California Code of Regulations, Sections 6738(a)(3) and 6738(g) Personal Protective equipment; and University of California Cooperative Extension, "A Guide to Agricultural Heat Stress."*)
- (10) Safety requirements and procedures, including engineering controls (such as closed systems and enclosed cabs) for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides. (*Pesticide Safety Information Series A2 - "Storage, Transportation and Disposal" and A3 - "Closed Systems"; material safety data sheets; pesticide product label; manufacturer's instructions; hazardous waste disposal companies; California Code of Regulations, Section 6738(i) Personal Protective Equipment.*)
- (11) Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards. (*Material safety data sheet; pesticide product label; California Code of Regulations, Section 6460 Drift Control, and 6614 Protection of Persons, Animals, and Property.*)
- (12) Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home. (*Pesticide Information Series A-4.*)

(13) Requirements of this chapter and chapter 4 relating to pesticide safety, Material Safety Data Sheets, and Pesticide Safety Information leaflets (A1-A9 and all as applicable). (*California Food and Agricultural Code, Division 6 & 7; California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Division 6; Pesticide Safety Information Series.*)

(14) The purpose and requirements for medical supervision if organophosphate or carbamate pesticides with the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING" on the label are mixed, loaded, or applied for the commercial or research production of an agricultural plant commodity. (*Pesticide Safety Information Series, all "Medical Supervision".*)

(15) The location of the written Hazard Communication Information for Employees Handling Pesticides (*Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflet A-8*), other Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets, and Material Safety Data Sheets;

---

*Write location of written hazardous information.*

(16) The employee's rights, including the right;

(A) To personally receive information about pesticides to which he or she may be exposed;

(B) For his or her physician or employee representative to receive information about pesticides to which he or she may be exposed; and

(C) To be protected against retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of his or her rights. (*See Pesticide Safety Information Series A-8 Hazard Communications Information for Employees Handling Pesticides.*)

**ATTACH ALL INFORMATION USED  
AS PART OF YOUR TRAINING PROGRAM**

## INFORMATION SOURCES

- Pesticide Safety Information Series are available from the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures.
  
- Pesticide product labels and material safety data sheets are available from pest control dealers.
  
- EPA publication, *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings* (Publication # EPA-540/9-88-001) is available in Spanish or English from:  
US EPA - Office of Pesticide Program  
Field Operations Division  
Communications Branch  
(7506C-CB)  
401 N Street S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20460  
(703) 305-5017
  
- 1996 California Food and Agricultural Code (\$6.00 until 7/97) and 1995 California Code of Regulations, Title 3. Food and Agriculture (\$12.00 until 7/97) is available from Cashier, Department of Pesticide Regulations, 830 K Street, Sacramento 95814
  
- For a list of other publications available from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, call us at (619) 694 - 2748 and request DPR Publication List DPR-003.