

Washington State Insert

Worker Protection Standard *How to Comply* Manual

The *Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How to Comply* manual was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist agricultural employers comply with the extensive 1992 revision to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The manual is an easy-to-understand guide to the various protections that farm, nursery, greenhouse and forest employers must provide to their employees who may encounter pesticides and their residues. More restrictive state requirements for decontamination and training are addressed in this manual insert. *Note: This insert corresponds to the Sept. 2005 version of the manual.*

Requirements for Decontamination Supplies

The state rule is more specific than the federal WPS in the amount of water and eyewash required for early entry workers and handlers. The following chart reviews these differences.

<i>At Decontamination Site</i>	<i>Where PPE Removed</i>	<i>At Mixing/Loading Site</i>
<p>WORKERS Federal: Enough water for routine washing and emergency eyewash. State: Adequate water for routine washing and emergency eyewash.</p>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
<p>EARLY ENTRY WORKERS Federal: Enough water for routine washing and emergency eyewash. State: 10 gallons/employee; 20 gallons/2 or more employees.</p> <p>Note: Both federal and state rules require 1 pint of immediately accessible eyewash water/early entry worker when the label requires protective eyewear.</p>	<p>Federal: Sufficient amount of water to wash thoroughly. State: Adequate water to wash thoroughly.</p>	Not applicable.
<p>HANDLERS Federal: Enough water for routine washing, for emergency eyeflushing, and for washing the entire body in case of an emergency. State: Same as federal except that state requires six gallons of additional eyewash when label requires eyewear for mixing, loading or applying.</p> <p>Note: Both federal and state rules require 1 pint of immediately accessible eyewash water/handler when performing a task for which the label requires protective eyewear.</p>	<p>Federal: Sufficient amount of water to wash thoroughly. State: Adequate water to wash thoroughly.</p>	<p>Federal: Enough water for routine washing, emergency eyewash, and for washing the entire body in case of an emergency. State: 10 gallons/employee; 20 gallons/2 or more employees. In addition, state requires six gallons of additional eyewash when label requires eyewear for mixing, loading or applying; all permanent mixing/loading sites must have a plumbed or portable eyewash system meeting this requirement.</p>
<p>Both federal and state rules require that all handler sites contain a clean change of clothing for use in an emergency.</p>		

Where does this affect the *How to Comply* manual?

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Under *Duties for All Employers/Decontamination Sites*, refer to the chart on page 1.

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Under *Supplies*, the more restrictive state requirement for 10 gallons of water for one employee and 20 gallons of water for 2 or more employees would be in place for handlers at the mixing/loading site and early entry workers at the early entry decontamination site.

Under *How Much Water Should Be Provided?* the more restrictive state requirement for 10 gallons of water for one employee and 20 gallons of water for 2 or more employees would be in place for mixing/loading sites and early entry sites.

Under *Emergency Eyeflushing*, the state rule requires a plumbed or portable emergency eyewash capable of delivering at least 1.5 liters (0.4 gallons) of water per minute for fifteen minutes (six gallons total) at all pesticide mixing and loading stations or handler decontamination sites when the label requires protective eyewear for mixing, loading or applying. A system meeting the above requirements must be provided at all **permanent** mixing and loading sites regardless of the requirements on the label.

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Under *Supplies*, the more restrictive state requirement for 10 gallons of water for one employee and 20 gallons of water for 2 or more employees would be in place for early entry workers at the early entry decontamination site.

Pesticide Safety Training Grace Period

The five-day grace period in the federal standard for training agricultural workers does not exist in the state regulation. In Washington, all workers must be trained prior to entering a field that has been treated with a WPS-labeled pesticide in the past 30 days. In addition, they must receive the required L&I Hazardous Communications Training at the same time.

(Handlers and early-entry workers continue to require training prior to performing handling or early entry tasks.)

Where does this affect the *How to Comply* manual?

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Under number 3 of *How Soon Must They Be Trained*, the state rule eliminates the 5-day grace period for worker training. The WPS training and L&I's Hazardous Communications Training (see <http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/agriculture/HTML/part-b.htm#WAC296-307-030>) must be conducted prior to employees performing WPS worker activities.

WPS Questions

Individuals having questions about the WPS can contact any of the following individuals/offices:

EPA Region 10

Allan Welch (206) 553-1980
Worker Protection Coordinator
(federal standard only)

WSDA

Program Development Branch

Margaret Tucker (360) 902-2015
Branch Manager

Compliance Branch Offices

Available toll free at 1-877-301-4555

Press 1 for English/Press 2 for Compliance and then:

Press 1 for Olympia

Press 2 for Yakima and Wenatchee

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L & I

Policy and Technical Support

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Seattle (206) 515-2864

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This fact sheet contains worker protection requirements for agricultural employers in Washington State. It was developed by the Pesticide Management Division of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) with assistance from the Washington State Department of Labor & Industry (L&I). For further information, contact WSDA or L&I at one of the numbers listed at the end of this publication. Inquiries regarding the availability of this publication in alternative forms should be directed to WSDA Pesticide Management Division at (360) 902-2015 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (360) 902-1996.