

Chemigation and Fertigation Technical Assistance Program



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MONITORING CHEMIGATION AND FERTIGATION SYSTEMS

Direct Supervision of Applications:

Only licensed applicators may be involved in calibrating, loading, starting up, *monitoring*, or shutting down a chemigation system. An unlicensed person may monitor a chemigation operation under the direct supervision of an appropriately licensed applicator.

It is important to note that the requirements of direct supervision differs with respect to private and commercial applicators, as defined in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 17.21.020(12). During a commercial application of a pesticide, direct supervision requires that an unlicensed person must be within eyeshot and earshot of an appropriately certified applicator. This means that an appropriately certified commercial applicator is required to be physically present when supervising an unlicensed operator. A private applicator may have an unlicensed person monitor a chemigation operation, provided a certified individual is immediately available when needed.

Note: If chemigating with a "Category I" pesticide that displays the signal words "DANGER-POISON" accompanied by the skull and crossbones symbol, the federal pesticide label requires that voice and site supervision of the handler by a licensed applicator must occur every two hours to comply with worker protection standards.

Licensing:

An individual who performs or supervises a chemigation operation must be a current holder of a WSDA Commercial Applicator, Commercial Operator, or Private Applicator License. Certified applicators applying a soil fumigant must have a Soil Fumigation endorsement (Category "O") or a Statewide endorsement (Category "A"). A Commercial Consultant is not properly licensed to carry out the supervisory functions of a chemigation operation, which includes monitoring. A pesticide license is not required for fertigation applications.

Monitoring:

Chemigation operations must be inspected at least once during each four-hour period, unless the pesticide label requires a more frequent interval. Monitoring of a fertigation operation must occur at least daily. If chemigating or fertigating near a sensitive area, constant monitoring of the operation must occur. Sensitive areas as defined in the Washington State Chemigation and Fertigation Rules include, but are not limited to, sensitive crops, public roadways or highways, homesteads or public dwellings, open bodies of water including irrigation or drainage ditches, and public areas such as parks, schools or hospitals.

Site Assessment:

Before conducting a chemigation or fertigation operation, a site vulnerability assessment of the treatment area should be done to determine the potential for water quality degradation, human exposure, and offsite movement of the product.

For More Information:

Contact the WSDA Chemigation and Fertigation Technical Assistance Program at (509) 766-2574, or write: Tom Hoffmann or Byron Fitch at WSDA Pesticide Management, 821 E. Broadway, Suite 4, Moses Lake, WA 98837.