

# Cotton

## Cotton Producers Facing The Worker Protection Standard

Spring 2001

Information Sheet 3

### Establishing A Central Location for Information On A Cotton Farm

The display of information at a central location on a cotton farm is not that difficult to establish. It simply is a timely exhibit of pesticide records and other safety information displayed at a location convenient to be seen and read by workers and handlers. There are several steps an employer should consider in establishing the central location. These are:

- Step 1: The employer must determine where to establish the central location and inform workers and handlers of this location. The location can be at the farm shop, farm office, equipment building, other farm structure or where workers and handlers are assembled each morning to discuss their responsibilities for the day.
- Step 2: The employer must develop a plan for maintenance of current information at the central location. He must assume this responsibility or assign it to a reliable person who is familiar with pesticide application activities on the farm. This could be a secretary, farm manager, data manager in the office or other operational personnel.
- Step 3: The employer must insure that information is displayed when any worker employed to work on the cotton farm is on the employer's agricultural establishment and a pesticide has been applied in the past 30 days or the restricted entry interval has been in effect.
- Step 4: Employers of workers and handlers must insure that specific information is displayed at a central location. This information includes:

#### Application List

The location and description of the area to be treated, product name, EPA registration number, active ingredient(s), time and date of scheduled application, restricted entry interval

#### Emergency Information

Name, telephone number and address of nearest emergency medical facility

#### Pesticide Safety Poster

Must be either the WPS safety poster developed by EPA or an equivalent. This can be purchased from a local supplier

#### SAMPLE LABELING

##### AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE), notification to workers and restricted entry interval. The requirements in this box apply to uses of this product that are within areas covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

**Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) of 48 hours. The REI is 72 hours in outdoor areas where average annual rainfall is less than 25 inches a year.**

PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil or water is :

- coveralls over long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- chemical-resistant gloves, such as barrier laminate or viton
- chemical-resistant footwear plus socks
- protective eyewear
- chemical-resistant headgear

Notify workers of the application by warning them orally and by posting warning signs at entrances to treated areas.

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Step 5: The accuracy and timing of the displayed information is the responsibility of the employer. When workers and handlers are on the agricultural premise, the employer must remember:

- to record the required pesticide information on the application list and **display it before the application takes place**
- to display pesticide information **no later than the beginning of the first work period** if workers and handlers are **NOT** on the employer's agricultural establishment.
- to display pesticide information until:
  - at least 30 days after the restricted entry interval expires or
  - at least 30 days after the end of the application, if no restricted entry interval exists for the pesticide.

Step 6: The employer must inform workers and handlers of changes in the information on emergency medical facilities and update the emergency information maintained at the central location. All materials displayed at the central location must be maintained in a legible condition during their time of display.

Step 7: The information at the central location may be continuously displayed or can be removed after 30 days, depending on conditions previously mentioned in other steps. Under the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Regulation, if there are no other computer or written records on file, then the displayed information must be maintained on file along with other information required.

Step 8: Plan improvements for next year while operational complications are easily recalled. The employer may ask for suggestions and advise his employees of changes being considered.



## Sources for Obtaining More Information:

- \* Federal Register (Worker Protection Standard 40 CFR Parts 156 & 170)
- \* The Office of the Environmental Protection Agency in your region (see below)
- \* Previous newsletters published by the Cotton Foundation and National Cotton Council ([www.cotton.org/ncc/technical/wps/](http://www.cotton.org/ncc/technical/wps/))
- \* "How to Comply Manual" published by the EPA
- \* Pesticide State Lead Agency
- \* Pesticide Coordinators with State Cooperative Extension Services
- \* USEPA Web site on worker protection ([www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/workers.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/workers.htm))

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