

Agrichemicals

WPS – Handler Monitoring/ Instructions



Ag Center

Helping Agriculture Comply with
Environmental Requirements

F O C U S O N

Monitoring and Special Instructions for Pesticide Handlers

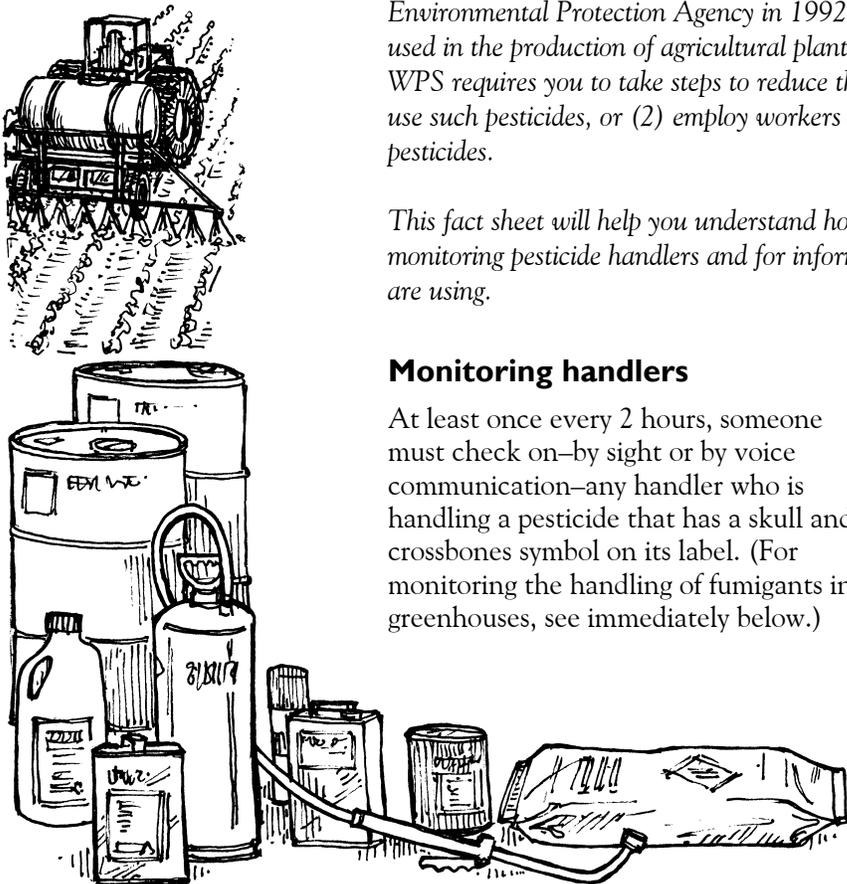
The Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 and amended in 1995. It covers pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. The WPS requires you to take steps to reduce the risk of pesticide-related illness and injury if you (1) use such pesticides, or (2) employ workers or pesticide handlers who are exposed to such pesticides.

This fact sheet will help you understand how to comply with the WPS requirements for monitoring pesticide handlers and for informing handlers about the pesticides and equipment they are using.

Monitoring handlers

At least once every 2 hours, someone must check on—by sight or by voice communication—any handler who is handling a pesticide that has a skull and crossbones symbol on its label. (For monitoring the handling of fumigants in greenhouses, see immediately below.)

Someone must maintain constant visual or voice contact with any handler who is applying or otherwise handling a fumigant in a greenhouse. This includes handlers who enter the greenhouse during fumigation to operate ventilation systems, adjust tarps or other coverings used in the fumigation, or check air concentration levels. The person monitoring the fumigant handler must:





be trained as a pesticide handler,
and
have immediate access to the PPE
that the fumigant labeling requires
for applicators.

Labeling information

You must inform your handler-
employees, in a manner they can
understand, about all labeling
requirements related to safe use of the
pesticide, including at least:

the signal word,
human hazard statements and
precautions,
personal protective equipment
requirements,
first aid instructions,
environmental precautions, and
any additional precautions about the
handling task to be performed.

Option: You may allow handlers to read
the labeling themselves, if they are able
to read and understand it.

Safe operation of equipment

You must make sure that your handler-
employees know how to safely and
correctly use all equipment they are
assigned to use for handling pesticides,

including, if applicable, how to avoid
drift and how to use chemigation
equipment safely.

For more information

You can get more facts about
compliance by calling the Ag Center's
toll-free number. Materials can be sent
to you by fax or mail, or you can talk to
an Ag Center representative. For a list
of all publications available from the Ag
Center, request document number
10001, "Ag Center Publications."

The Ag Center welcomes comments on
this document and its other services.

*You must also provide
handlers access to the
pesticide labeling
information during
handling tasks.*

National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center

901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Toll-free: 1-888-663-2155

Internet: www.epa.gov/agriculture

Fax: 913-551-7270



United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460