

Region 1 Worker Protection Standard Update

“How are we doing?”



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Why must growers comply with WPS?



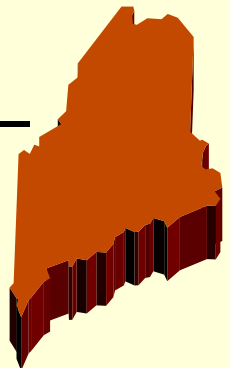
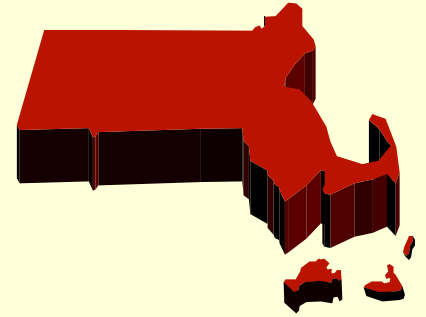
- The “Agricultural Use Requirements” box on pesticide labels require applicators to comply with 40 CFR Part 170 if the pesticide product is used in the production of an agricultural commodity.
- The WPS has been enforced since 1992.
- What happens after the state inspectors leave my farm--how are we doing?

First, some pesticide regulatory background....

- The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is a federal law enforced by EPA. However, similar to many other federal statutes; it is a state delegated program.
- Each New England state has been delegated by EPA to have primacy for use enforcement of pesticide labels as well as the authority to certify pesticide applicators.
- EPA Region 1 is comprised of the 6 New England states.
- Each state has a Cooperative Agreement with EPA; they receive federal funds to maintain a pesticide regulatory program.
- Each State Lead Agency (SLA) enforces the terms and conditions of the pesticide label & labeling.
- Thus, each SLA in New England conducts WPS inspections to ensure agricultural producers are complying with the terms & conditions of the pesticide label.

And a bit of reality, as we are in New England....

- New England agriculture is unique!
- We have smaller operations.
- We have a short growing season--even shorter in our northern states.
- We have the highest land values in the nation.
- We have highly diversified operations--greenhouses, vegetables and berries all on one operation.
- Farming is hard, tough and thoughtful work—which is true all across the US.



WPS Accomplishments

- From 2002 through 2006, there were 21,791 WPS inspections conducted in the US.
- From 2002 through 2006, there were a total of 963 WPS inspections conducted in the 6 New England states.
- From 2002 through 2006, there were 165 WPS inspections conducted in Massachusetts.



WPS Compliance 2002 through 2004

- From 2002 through 2004, there were 2753 violations of the WPS across the US.
- From 2002 through 2004, there were 79 violations of the WPS in the New England states.
- In Massachusetts, there were 21 violations.



WPS Compliance Tracking since 2005

- As a result of an OMB program review; specific violations of the WPS were required to be recorded.



- Starting in 2005, the WPS was divided into 10 major elements of compliance:

10 WPS Compliance Categories

- Safety Training
- Central Posting
- Notice of Application
- Entry Restrictions
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Retaliation
- Mix/Loading, Application Equipment, & Applications
- Decontamination
- Emergency Assistance
- Info Exchange



Compliance Summary-2005

- Across the US, Central Posting of Pesticide Applications is the primary area of compliance failure; followed by Pesticide Safety Training.



- For the New England states, this is also true.
- 23 producers failed in Central Posting and 14 in Safety Training.
- In Massachusetts in 2005, there were no violations of the WPS.



Compliance Summary-2006

- Again in 2006, across the US, Central Posting of Pesticide Applications is the primary area of compliance failure; followed by Safety Training.
- For the New England states, this was also true; 27 failed Central Posting, 10 in Safety Training.
- In 2006, Massachusetts issued 7 Notices of Warning of the WPS.

In Conclusion....



- Keep up the good work!
- Check to ensure you have adequate training supplies before the season starts.
- Make sure you have the Central Posting area ready—safety poster, place to record application details and emergency information-ready--for a busy & profitable season (hopefully!).

Thank You!

- Questions???
- Resources: www.epa.gov/region1
- Handout has some WPS supplies
Massachusetts producers frequently need marked off.
- Have a successful & safe season!

