

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Pesticide Worker Safety Regulation Improvements Agricultural Worker Protection Regulation

BACKGROUND:

The agricultural worker protection regulation (40 CFR 170) establishes requirements for agricultural employers to provide protections for workers laboring in pesticide-treated fields, and for pesticide handlers who mix, load, and apply those pesticides. The current regulation was promulgated in 1992. The Office of Pesticide Programs is considering changes to this regulation.

REGULATION REVISION:

After a program assessment and broad stakeholder engagement, a project was launched to amend the regulation to (a) close gaps in protection, (b) address deficiencies, and (c) apply lessons learned since the rule was issued. The changes under consideration are intended to:

- improve protections to the human health of a predominately Hispanic labor population,
- strengthen the ability to enforce the regulation, and
- improve program operational efficiency and administration, and rule clarity.

KEY GOALS:

1. Better trained workers by improving training content and quality, and addressing current regulatory gaps:
2. Better protections for workers during Restricted Entry Intervals (REIs):
3. Improve protections for workers during pesticide applications:
4. Improve hazard communication protections:
5. Improve effectiveness of safety poster & emergency information:

PROCESS FORWARD:

1. Complete Final Agency Review
2. OMB and USDA Reviews
3. Administrator Signature
4. Publication of Proposed Rule – Goal is 2013