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# EPA's Proposed Guidance for Pesticide Drift Labeling



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# *Outline*

- Background on Pesticide Drift
- Proposed Labeling Guidance (PR Notice)
- Questions



# *Pesticide Spray and Dust Drift – What is It?*

- Definition: the physical movement of pesticide droplets or particles through the air from the target site to any non-target site
- Pesticide spray and dust drift occurs during application or soon thereafter



Pheasant Ridge Vineyards Photo: Air Blast Sprayer

# *Pesticide Spray and Dust Drift – What It's Not*

- Pesticide drift does not include the movement of a pesticide caused by other types of airborne migration, such as
  - volatilization from the application site after application
  - windblown soil particles



# *Background on Drift*



- Drift happens
- Long history of incidents from pesticide drift
- Broad interest by public and private sectors and general public
- Existing product labels contain widely varying language

# *Background on Drift – PPDC Workgroup*

- The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) drift workgroup formed in 2006
- Goal: to provide recommendations to EPA about how to address pesticide drift to water
- April 2007 final report recommendation: standardize drift labeling
- Drift labeling should be
  - Concise
  - Clear
  - Enforceable



# *EPA Drift Workgroup*

- EPA drift workgroup formed in February 2008
- Workgroup includes
  - Office of Pesticide Programs, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Water, Office of General Counsel, Office of the Science Advisor, and Office of Policy Economics and Innovation
  - EPA Regional Offices (5, 9)
  - State Lead Agencies (MN, IN)
- Goal: to develop guidance on pesticide drift labeling





# *Purpose and Goal of Guidance*

- Purpose:
  - Information to applicants and registrants on revising pesticide drift labeling
  - Plan for orderly revision of labels
  - Provide information of EPA's interpretation of proposed labeling
  
- Goal:
  - Reduce drift to protect people, non-target organisms, and the environment.
  - Improve labeling consistency, clarity and enforceability



# *Applicability*

- All outdoor use pesticides which have the potential to drift during application
  - Liquid and solid formulations
  - Ground, aerial and handheld application methods
  - Agricultural, commercial and residential use sites.



# *Labeling Statements*

- The proposed labeling includes two components: a general drift statement, and product-specific application restrictions
- This approach sets a risk-protective standard for all products, while allowing flexibility to tailor mitigation to address the risks of particular pesticides



# *Labeling Statements*

## Approach:

- Set a risk-protective standard for all products with general statements
- Allow flexibility to tailor mitigation to address the risks of particular pesticides (ag and commercial) with product-specific drift/risk mitigation measures.



# *General Statements—Agricultural and Commercial Products*

- “Do not apply this product in a manner that will contact workers or other persons, either directly or through drift.

Risk protective standard:

- In addition, do not apply this product in a manner that results in spray [or dust] drift that could cause an adverse effect to people or any other non-target organisms or sites.”



# *General Statement for Non-Commercial (Homeowner) Products*



Risk protective standard:

- ❑ “Do not apply this product in a way that could contact people, or that results in spray [or dust] drift that could cause harm to people, pets, property, aquatic life, wildlife, or wildlife habitat.”

# *Product-Specific Statements*

- Product-specific application restrictions will be determined on a case-by-case basis, through OPP's usual risk assessment processes
- Restrictions *could* include
  - maximum/minimum wind speeds
  - maximum release height
  - minimum droplet or particle size
  - buffer zones for sensitive sites
- The draft PR Notice *does not* require these kinds of restrictions for all products



# *Interpretation Guidance*

- Provides guidance to state and tribal officials about how EPA intends the new drift labeling statements in the guidance should be interpreted
- Use of variety of real-world drift scenarios and investigation cases for illustration.





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## *Additional Questions for Commenters*

- Scope--definition of drift, affected products
- “Could cause adverse effects (harm)”
- Use of and definition of terms—spray drift, adverse effects, harm, sensitive sites
- Labeling formats
- Implementation timeframes
- Compatibility with existing laws.



## *Additional Information*

- Draft Guidance (PR Notice) on Pesticide Drift Labeling:
  - Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0628 at [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Comment period from November 4, 2009 to March 5, 2010
  
- EPA Pesticide Drift Factsheet:
  - <http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/spraydrift.htm>



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# *Questions/Contact Information*

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