

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# National Assessment of the Pesticide Worker Safety Program – Follow Up Activity

October 21, 2005

After finishing a lengthy review of the two pesticide worker safety regulations, we are now pursuing follow up actions, including regulatory change, in order to better protect human health and the environment. Regulatory changes will focus on ensuring applicator competency, expanded worker knowledge on self-protective measures and regulatory requirement clarity and better program administration.

## Certification of Pesticide Applicators

- An important component of national pesticide laws is to ensure applicators are competent to apply pesticides safely. Pesticide use has expanded, as has our knowledge of the risks these chemicals pose to human health. Standards of competency must evolve accordingly in order to protect human health and the environment.

### Major areas for change

- Ensure competency for occupational users of pesticides
  - Expand scope of users and products subject to verification of competency
  - Raise competency standards appropriate to level of risk
- Establish national consistency & improve program administration

## Agricultural Worker Protection

- The agricultural worker protection regulation was designed to reduce agricultural worker exposure to pesticides and educate workers on how to protect themselves from harm due to pesticides and pesticide residues. Both internal and external reviews of the program have highlighted gaps in the protection under the current regulation, notably, a lack of OSHA-equivalent hazard communication. The current regulation should be enhanced to ensure comprehensive protection for agricultural workers.

## Major areas for change

- Equip agricultural workers with comprehensive, updated information on self-protective measures
- Simplify complex regulatory language and clarify coverage requirements
- Improve program administration

## Schedule

- Publish in the EPA's Regulatory Agenda November 2005
- Publish proposed regulations for comment February 2007 (Tentative)