Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Compliance

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a set of regulations, administered by the EPA, whose purpose is to protect agricultural workers and handlers from pesticide exposure on the job. If you employ agricultural workers (roguers, detasslers, nursery transplanters, fruit pickers, other hand laborers) or pesticide handlers (mixers, loaders, applicators, scouts, etc.) on your farm, you must comply with WPS. It applies to both restricted use and general use pesticides.

Workers and handlers must receive WPS training annually. WPS training programs must be approved by the EPA and conducted by either 1) a certified WPS trainer; 2) a certified/licensed pesticide applicator; or 3) a state-designated educator of pesticide applicators (i.e., an extension educator). A list of EPA-approved WPS training programs can be found here: [http://pesticideresources.org/wps/inventory.html](http://pesticideresources.org/wps/inventory.html). Make sure that the program you choose to use is appropriate for your intended audience. In other words, workers must receive worker training; handlers must receive handler training.

**Note:** A certified/licensed pesticide applicator does not need to take WPS handler training.

In addition to the general training requirement, WPS requires agricultural employers to take a number of other steps to ensure the safety of their employees. These include respirator compliance and hazard communication compliance.

We recommend that you read the EPA ‘How to Comply’ manual for a full account of these and other employer responsibilities under WPS: [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/pesticide-worker-protection-standard-how-comply-manual](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/pesticide-worker-protection-standard-how-comply-manual).

The “WPS Training Verification Record” can be used to document that workers and/or handlers in your employment have received their required annual WPS training. If the space provided is not sufficient, you can print as many copies as you need from [https://pested.unl.edu](https://pested.unl.edu).