

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, detassellers, nursery transplanter, 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>. 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>.

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>.