

EPA Proposal to Revise the Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule

On August 5, 2015 EPA issued a proposal to revise the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule. The proposed revisions are available on www.regulations.gov, under docket ID # EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183.

Stricter standards for those applying restricted use pesticides will help keep our communities safe, protect the environment and reduce risk to those applying pesticides. Pesticide use will be safer with more consistency in the knowledge and competency of pesticide applicators across the nation.

EPA's proposal:

- Enhances applicator competency standards to ensure that restricted use pesticides are used safely.
- Establishes a first time-ever nation-wide minimum age of 18 for certified applicators and persons working under their direct supervision.
- Requires all applicators to renew certifications every 3 years.
- Requires additional specialized certifications for people using high-risk application methods (fumigation and aerial).
- Requires first time annual safety training and increased oversight for persons working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Training includes reducing take-home pesticide exposure to protect families.
- Promotes interstate recognition of applicator licenses to reduce the administrative burden for businesses that operate in multiple states.
- Provides expanded options for establishing certification programs in Indian Country that acknowledge tribal sovereignty.
- Clarifies and streamlines requirements for States, Tribes, and Federal agencies to administer their own certification programs.

Quick Facts on Restricted Use Pesticides & Certified Applicators

- Restricted use pesticides equal ~5% of the total pesticide products registered by EPA.
- There are 1 million certified applicators nationwide.
- The proposed rule could prevent up to 800 acute illnesses/year.
- Estimated \$80.5 million in benefits, \$47.2 million in costs.

For additional information on the rulemaking:

www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/epa-proposes-stronger-standards-people-applying-riskiest-pesticides

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