

Session 7: Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee - November 2, 2017

Agricultural Worker Protection Final Rule

Objective: Discussion of the following topics raised in the May 4, 2017 PPDC / Regulatory Reform exercise.

Minimum Age

Handlers and early entry workers must be at least 18 years old. Members of the owner's immediate family are exempt from this and most other requirements of the rule.

Immediate family is defined as all in-laws, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and first cousins

Designated Representative.

The 2015 worker protection rule required agricultural employers to provide pesticide application information and safety data sheets to a designated representative of a worker or handler under certain circumstances. This requirement is in addition to the requirement for agricultural employers to provide that information to medical personnel, workers or handlers requesting it.

Application Exclusion Zones (AEZs).

For outdoor production on farms, nurseries and forests, the 2015 worker protection rule established AEZ requirements to reduce the number of incidents where workers or other persons are exposed to pesticides during agricultural pesticide applications. The 2015 worker protection rule requires agricultural employers to keep workers and other persons out of certain areas

EPA seeks to ensure that, if these requirements pose challenges for affected stakeholders, the challenges are accurately assessed and any unintended consequences are identified. To that end, EPA is interested in getting information from the discussion on the following questions.

What challenges do you anticipate with implementing these requirements?

Consistent with EPA's mandate to protect human health and the environment, what alternatives, would you propose to address the concerns on which these requirements focus?