

Agrichemicals

WPS – Requirements for Growers/Family



Ag Center

Helping Agriculture Comply with
Environmental Requirements

F O C U S O N

Does the WPS Require Growers To Protect Themselves?

The Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 and amended in 1995. It covers pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. The WPS requires you to take steps to reduce the risk of pesticide-related illness and injury if you (1) use such pesticides, or (2) employ workers or pesticide handlers who are exposed to such pesticides.

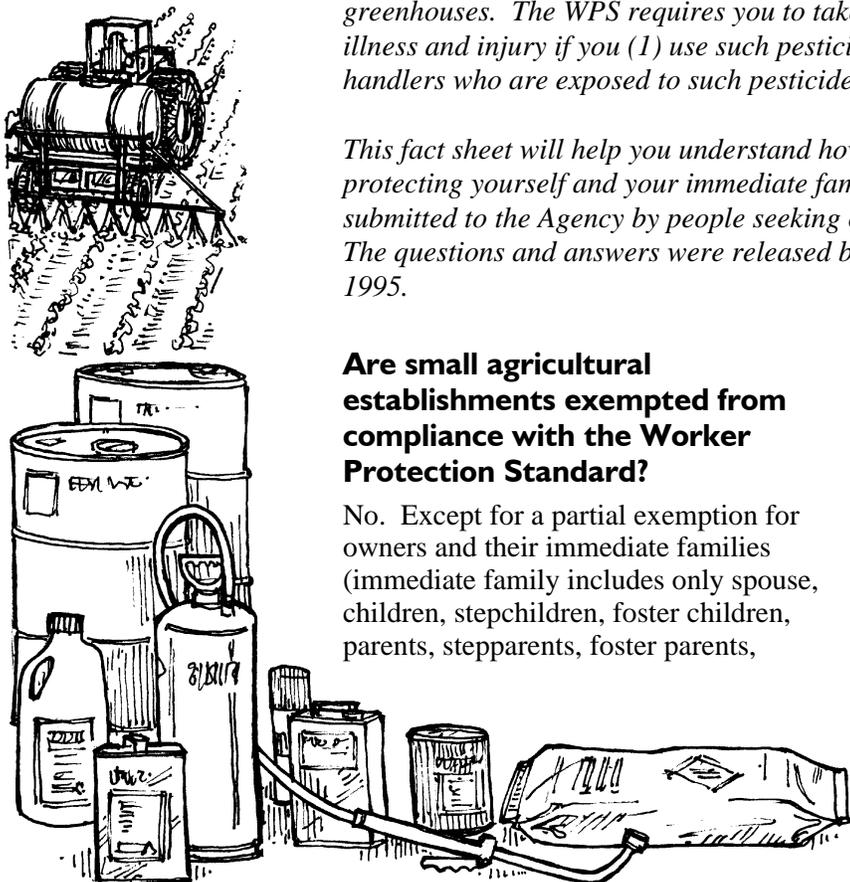
This fact sheet will help you understand how to comply with WPS requirements for protecting yourself and your immediate family. The questions answered here were submitted to the Agency by people seeking clarification on this part of the regulation. The questions and answers were released by EPA's Office of Compliance on March 15, 1995.

Are small agricultural establishments exempted from compliance with the Worker Protection Standard?

No. Except for a partial exemption for owners and their immediate families (immediate family includes only spouse, children, stepchildren, foster children, parents, stepparents, foster parents,

brothers, and sisters), all agricultural establishments that use pesticides that have WPS labeling must comply with the Standard when using those products for uses within the scope of the WPS.

The definition of a "worker" includes a self-employed person. Does this mean that growers are required to comply with all provisions where they are not specifically exempt?





Those who qualify as “agricultural owners” are exempt from some WPS provisions.

In general, self-employed people who perform worker activities must provide themselves with the protections required for workers. However, if they qualify for the agricultural owner exemption, they are exempt from some provisions.

Are growers (owners) personally subject to the REI provisions, entry restrictions, and PPE requirements for early-entry activities?

Yes, growers (owners) are personally subject to the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) provisions, entry restrictions, and PPE requirements for early entry, when using a product referencing the WPS.

For more information

You can get more facts about compliance by calling the Ag Center’s toll-free number. Materials can be sent to you by fax or mail, or you can talk to an Ag Center representative. For a list of all publications available from the Ag Center, request document number 10001, “Ag Center Publications.”

The Ag Center welcomes comments on this document and its other services.

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