

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Application in Enclosed Spaces

DEFINITIONS:

FIELD: means any area (including an enclosed space) upon which one or more agricultural plant commodities (including forest and nursery products) are grown for commercial or research production. Field does not include range or pasture harvested by grazing animals.

TREATED FIELD: means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days. A treated field includes associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas. A treated field does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or over spray.

ENCLOSED SPACE: a space enclosed, entirely or in part, with a nonporous covering of sufficient size to permit entry, and is used in the commercial or research production of an agricultural plant commodity. This includes greenhouses, polyhouses, mushroom houses, hoop houses, and similar structures.

PROTECTING PERSONAL ITEMS: Before making an application in a greenhouse, the applicator must take all field worker protective clothing and personal items out of the spray area to prevent contamination. This includes items such as caps, sweaters, coffee cups, gloves and boots.

SNAIL BAIT: When employees apply snail bait, they are handling pesticides. The owner must comply with all the laws and regulations regarding employee pesticide handling and training and the employees must wear chemical resistant gloves and eye protection.

DIPPING TRANSPLANTS: Employees involved in dipping plants are handling pesticides. The owner must comply with all the laws and regulations regarding employee pesticide handling (including training of employees as pesticide handlers). The employees must wear all the personal protective equipment described on the label as well as chemical resistant gloves and eye protection. Employees involved in planting the transplants, which are still damp with fungicide, must wear any personal protective equipment required in order to keep the wet fungicide from contacting the employees' skin and eyes. The fungicides are pesticides and must be reported.

RESTRICTED ENTRY: No one is allowed to enter or remain in the prohibited area in a greenhouse during the application or the Restricted Entry Interval (REI), except the persons making the application. The Restricted Entry Interval is on the pesticide label. The size of the prohibited area varies depending on how the pesticide is applied:

1. **The prohibited area, until ventilation criteria have been met, is the entire enclosed area plus any adjacent area that is not sealed (sufficient to prevent pesticide**

transfer) from the treatment site when the pesticide is applied as a space treatment (fumigant, smoke, fog, aerosol or mist) or is a pesticide for which the product labeling requires respiratory protection. CCR 6762

2. **The prohibited area is the treatment site plus 25 feet in all directions within the enclosed area** when the pesticide is applied as a spray from a height greater than 12 inches from the soil or other planting medium, as a fine spray, or using a pressure of more than 40 pounds per square inch. CCR 6762
3. **THE PROHIBITED AREA IS THE TREATMENT SITE, if the pesticide is applied in any other manner.**

POSTING: Posting is required for all applications in **entirely enclosed spaces**, unless access is controlled in a manner that assures no employee (other than the handlers making the application) will enter, work in, remain in, or pass through the greenhouse during the application and the restricted entry interval. Posting is required for all applications with a REI greater than 4 hours in **all other enclosed spaces**, unless access to the enclosed space is controlled in a manner that assures no employee (other than the handlers making the application) will enter, work in, remain in, or walk within 1/4 mile during the application and the restricted entry interval. Depending on how the pesticide is applied the entire enclosed space will need to be posted and off limits to employees or only the treatment area within the greenhouse will be posted. If employees will be working in another part of the greenhouse during an application, post only the treated area and not the entire greenhouse. **The area must be posted before the application begins.** CCR 6776

ENCLOSED SPACE VENTILATION CRITERIA: When a pesticide with product labeling requiring respiratory protection for application is applied by any method, or when any pesticide is applied as a fumigant, smoke, mist, fog, or aerosol inside an enclosed space, the enclosed space must be ventilated until:

- (a) The concentration is measured and found not to exceed any pesticide product labeling standard; or
- (b) One of the following has occurred if there is no labeling standard:
 - (1) Ten air exchanges are complete;
 - (2) Two hours of mechanical ventilation, such as with fans;
 - (3) Four hours of passive ventilation, such as opening vents, windows, or doors;
 - (4) Twenty-four hours with no ventilation; or
 - (5) Any combination of percentage portions of (1), (2), (3), and (4) the sum of which equals 100%. CCR 6769

Note that the ventilation criteria must be completed before employees can enter the greenhouse even if the REI of the product used has already expired.

GREENHOUSE EARLY REENTRY: After the application is finished, do not allow anyone to enter the prohibited area before the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) has expired. There are some exemptions to this rule, for example:

1. NO CONTACT: After the ENCLOSED AREA VENTILATION CRITERIA have been met, fieldworkers are allowed to walk through the treated area, or work in the treated area, during the REI, as long as they will not contact anything that has been treated. CCR 6770
2. REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY ENTRY WORKERS: Before employees enter a treated field under the early entry exemption, the employee must receive pesticide information including recognition of poisoning symptoms, what to do in case of an emergency and how to properly use personal protective equipment. The employer must provide all required protective equipment, must provide one pint of eyewash when the label requires protective eyewear and a decontamination place after exposure where employees can remove the personal protective equipment with sufficient water, soap and single use towels. CCR 6771

DOSATRON, DOSAMATIC AND ANDERSON PROPORTIONAL INJECTORS:

- Many pesticide labels allow applications to be made through chemigation systems or irrigation equipment. Proportional injectors are devices that are connected “inline” to the irrigation system. Handlers must comply with all chemigation equipment requirements specified on the pesticide label, including backflow prevention regulations. CCR 6610
- Backflow Prevention Requirements:
 1. A single check valve, vacuum relief valve and low pressure drain

OR

2. When connecting to a public water supply, use of a reduced-pressure zone, backflow preventer. Alternatively, many discharge the water into a reservoir tank as long as an air gap is between the public water source and the top of the reservoir