

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

MEDICAL SUPERVISION

Medical Supervision is only required for employees applying pesticides for the commercial or research production of an agricultural plant commodity.

Whenever an employee mixes, loads or applies a pesticide with signal word “Danger” or “Warning” that contains an **organophosphate** or **carbamate**, the employer must maintain use records. These records include the employee’s name, pesticide name, and the date of use. The employee’s name can be added to the application records to meet this requirement. The records must be kept up to date daily and reviewed to determine if the employee “regularly handles” these pesticides.

Whenever an employee “regularly handles” these pesticides (i.e., more than 6 days in any 30 day period), the employer must have a signed *Physician’s Agreement* to perform periodic employee handler blood testing and analysis.

Physician’s Agreement: The recommended form for this agreement is on the back of this handout. A copy of the agreement must be given to the Agricultural Commissioner once it is signed. Watsonville Community Hospital is the only approved facility in Santa Cruz County for cholinesterase testing.

Employer responsibilities: The employer’s responsibilities related to Medical Supervision are covered in Pesticide Safety Information Series A-10

ORGANOPHOSPHATES

Dibrom
Dimethoate
Di-syston
Imidan
Lorsban, Dursban
Metasystox-R
Supraside

N-METHYL CARBAMATES

Furadan
Lannate
Mesural, Grandslam
Sevin 80S, Sevin 80 WSP
Vydate

PHYSICIAN'S AGREEMENT

(For Medical Supervisor to send to Pesticide Operator whose employees require Medical Supervision)

Dear Mr./Ms. _____ Address _____
(first and last name) _____

This letter is in response to your request that I provide medical supervision to those of your employees requiring such supervision, as described in the Pesticide Safety Regulations (Section 6728, Title 3, California Code of Regulations).

In agreeing to provide medical supervision, I expect your firm to abide by the provisions of those regulations and I intend to perform my functions in accordance with the "Guideline for Physicians who Supervise Workers Exposed to Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticides," 4th Ed., published by the California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), available on their website at www.oehha.ca.gov. I possess a copy of, and am aware of the contents of this document.

The employees covered by this regulation are workers engaged in commercial or research production agriculture who will be "regularly handling" specified types of pesticides during any part of a day for more than six days in any 30 consecutive day period. The specific pesticides are organophosphates and carbamates bearing the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING" on the pesticide label.

If you intend to have an employee work regularly as a mixer, loader, ground or aerial applicator, or flagger with the more toxic organophosphate or carbamate pesticides, it shall be your responsibility to have that employee come to me for an examination and at least two blood tests at least three days apart in order to set a cholinesterase baseline before exposure begins. If an employee has had any recent exposure to such pesticides, further exposures shall be avoided for as long as practicable, preferably at least 30 days before the baseline testing period begins. Employees will be required to have their baseline retested, or verified, every two years.

According to the regulations, the employer shall ensure that subsequent red blood cell and plasma cholinesterase determinations are conducted at least as frequently as recommended by the medical supervisor.

In addition:

- a) each new employee shall have red blood cell and plasma cholinesterase determinations within three working days after meeting the qualifying standard for regularly handling organophosphate or carbamate pesticides in Toxicity Categories I or II for the first three qualifying 30-day periods;
- b) after three tests at 30-day intervals, when any new employee continues to regularly handle organophosphate or carbamate pesticides in Toxicity Categories I and II, testing shall be required at every second qualifying period (every 60 days) unless I indicate otherwise to you in writing; and
- c) when the employee's work consists only of mixing and loading the above materials using closed mixing and loading systems, and does not involve any pesticide application, he or she is required to have only the pre-exposure baseline test performed and verified every two years.

The above testing intervals are subject to change. I will schedule more frequent tests and designate non-exposure periods as necessary, according to the test results. When work experience demonstrates little effect on cholinesterase values, I may schedule less frequent testing. With mutual cooperation we should be able to assure your employees a safe work situation.

Sincerely,

_____, M.D. Date _____

Address _____