

County of Los Angeles

Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures Department

Non-Production Property Operator's Pesticide Use Guide



Property Operators within Los Angeles County:

This guide provides general information on what is required of a property operator who uses pesticides or has pesticides applied by a pest control company for the control of pest problems.

Specific or detailed information can be provided by your County Agricultural Inspector. Information is also contained in the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) N-1 through N-10, which can be obtained from your area inspector.

You will find this guide to be very helpful in understanding the laws and regulations pertaining to the use of pesticides.



For more information and updates, you can access these websites:

County Agricultural Commissioner (LACAC): <http://acwm.lacounty.gov>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR): <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

District Office Locations & Phone Numbers

Headquarters - Arcadia
12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, CA 91006
Main Line 626-575-5466
Fax 626-443-6652
Hours: 6:30- 5:30 Monday - Thursday

Antelope Valley - Lancaster
335 East Avenue K-10 Ste 102
Lancaster, CA 93535
661-974-8801
Fax 661-948-1088

Northern Area - Sylmar
14445 Olive View Drive
Sylmar, CA 91342
818-833-6608
Fax 818-833-7797

Western Area - Lomita
24320 Narbonne Avenue
Lomita, CA 90717
310-534-2770
Fax 310-326-8862

THIS GUIDE PROVIDES INFORMATION OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- ❑ Basic Requirements
- ❑ Record Keeping
- ❑ Labels
- ❑ Recommendations
- ❑ Training
- ❑ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- ❑ Change Area and Decontamination Facilities
- ❑ Medical Care Information
- ❑ Storage and Disposal
- ❑ Equipment

Basic Requirements

“Operator of the Property” as defined by regulation:

A person who owns the property and/or is legally entitled to possess or use the property through the terms of a lease, rental contract, trust or other management agreement.

Prior to the purchase and use of pesticides, the operator of a property or the operator’s authorized agent:

MUST OBTAIN AN OPERATOR ID NUMBER

Or if you intend to use a California Restricted Pesticide:

OBTAIN A RESTRICTED MATERIALS PERMIT

Note: No operator ID number is required to be obtained when a pest control business purchases and applies general use pesticides to your property.

Owners (employers) who apply pesticides are exempt from worker safety regulations; however, you **must** comply with **ALL** label requirements including the one specifying personal protective equipment (PPE).

Owners **must** meet the following requirements regardless of who applies the pesticides.

Record Keeping

It is the responsibility of the owner/ property operator to submit monthly summary pesticide use reports to the agricultural commissioner. Submit the report by the 10th day of the month following the month the pesticide application was made. If no pesticides are applied during the month, a negative report is **not** required. If a pest control business does the work, then the pest control business is responsible for reporting the use to the Agricultural Commissioner.

It is the property operator's responsibility to keep a copy of the written training program, training records, and use reports for 2 years, at a central location at the workplace. These records **must** be accessible by employees.

See PSIS: N5, N8.

Labels

A copy of the registered label must be available at the work site. Special local needs (SLN) registrations are supplemental labeling instructions for additional uses authorized by DPR. A SLN must be in possession of the user at the time of an application.

Label exemptions for special local need and emergency conditions (section 18) are provided for by DPR or US EPA.

When using a California Restricted Pesticide, a notice of intent (NOI), must be submitted to our office. NOI's are required at least 24 hours prior to an application. Certain restricted pesticides will require NOI's of an earlier notification. These conditions are specified on the permit.

See PSIS: N1, N5, N8, N10.

Recommendations

Agricultural Use is defined as "... any pesticide, method, or device for the control or plant or animal pests, or any other pests, or the use of any pesticide for the regulation of plant growth or defoliation of plants for any purpose **except for:**

- Use in a household or the immediate environment
- A use requiring a Structural Pest Control License
- Use for or in manufacturing, mining, or chemical process
- Use within the confines of a building, or on property necessary for operations
- Use under a veterinarian's prescription
- Use by certain vector control districts

The definition of agricultural use includes: non-production agricultural sites such as cemeteries, parks, golf courses, and right-of-ways.

There is no requirement for the operator of a property to document their pest control decision making process or to have a copy of a recommendation for any agricultural application made by the property operator or their employees.

A pest control business (PCB) **must** have a copy of a recommendation before making an agricultural use of a pesticide that requires a permit.

If the recommendation is made by a licensed pest control advisor (PCA), the recommendation **must** be in writing and the PCA **must** provide a copy of the recommendation to the operator of the property.

The property operator **does not** have to retain a copy of the recommendation. Usually a copy is given to the PCB by the property operator to satisfy the requirement.

The property operator can also prepare the document and there is no PCA license requirement for the property operator.

Public Agency Exception

Any person who is employed by a federal, state, county, or local agency and who provides to those agency recommendations on **any** agricultural use of a pesticide **must** be licensed as a pest control advisor.

This PCA licensing requirement applies only to employees of public agencies, **not** to firms acting as operators of the property, even when the property is similar to the property operated by a public agency (e.g. golf course, park, and cemetery).

Training

If you have employees who handle pesticides you **must** train them **before** they are allowed to handle pesticides.

Training **must** be repeated at least annually and continually updated to cover any new pesticides that will be handled.

The employer **must** have a written training program. The program shall describe the materials; study guide, pamphlets, pesticide product labels, Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets (PSIS), Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), slides, videos, etc., and any information that will be provided and used to train their employees.

The employer **must** record the date and extent of the training. This training must be verified by the employee's signature.

The employer **must** display a completed PSIS N-8 whenever employees are working as handlers.

See PSIS: N1, N5, N8.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The employer **must** provide the employee with **regulation** required PPE (e.g. protective eyewear, gloves, footwear and other protective clothing).

The employer **must** provide the employee with the **label** required PPE (e.g. long-sleeved shirt, headgear, apron).

Personal protective equipment **must** be stored separately from pesticides and application equipment, to prevent contamination.

In addition, the employer **must** provide for the daily inspection, cleaning, repair or replacement of PPE.

Employers **must** assure employees are provided with and use approved respiratory protective equipment when pesticide product labeling or regulations require respiratory protection.

NOTE: Eye protection is required, by regulation, for all “hand applications”. See PSIS N-1 for some exceptions. *Common eyeglasses, including sunglasses do not meet this requirement.*

Protective gloves are required unless the label states otherwise. See PSIS N-1 for some exceptions.

Using Category I or II Pesticides (“Danger” or “Warning” Labeled)

Coveralls **must** be provided by the employer and used when an employee handles a pesticide with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING” on the label.

The employer shall assure that:

- Employees start each day wearing coveralls whenever they handle pesticides in category I or II.
- Employees change out of their coveralls and wash at the end of the work day.
- Potentially contaminated coveralls removed at the work site or headquarters are not taken home by employee.

Note: Coveralls are not required when applying fumigants unless the product label specifically requires the use of coveralls.

See PSIS: N1, N3, N4, N5, N7, N8, N10.

Change Area and Decontamination Facilities

For employees who are handling pesticides with the signal word, “Danger” or “Warning”, the employer shall assure that there is, at the place where employees end their day and remove their PPE, an area where employees may change clothes and wash themselves.

Clean towels, soap, and sufficient water shall be available.

The employer shall provide a clean, pesticide-free work place where employees may store their personal clothing while at work handling pesticides.

For non-production agricultural pesticide use, the decontamination site shall be within 100 feet of the mixing/loading site when employees are handling pesticides with the signal word, “Danger” or “Warning” on the label.

See PSIS: N4, N7, N10.

Medical Care Information

Emergency medical care for employees handling pesticides **must** be planned for in advance.

The medical care information **must** be posted at a prominent place at the work site, or work vehicle if there is no designated work site.

If the medical care facility is not readily accessible from the work location, procedures to be followed to obtain emergency medical care **must** be given.

If any employee has become ill or thought to have been exposed to a pesticide which might lead to an illness, the employer **must** ensure the employee is **taken** to a doctor immediately.

See PSIS: N5, N8, N10.

Storage and Disposal

Pesticides **must** remain locked up when not attended. The storage of pesticides **must** have distinct separation from other stored materials. The storage **must** be posted with warning signs when the stored pesticides, or empty pesticide containers, have the signal word, “Danger” or “Warning”.

Signs must be visible from any direction of probable approach, and be readable at 25 feet.

Example

DANGER

POISON STORAGE AREA

ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT

KEEP DOOR LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE

The notice shall be repeated in an appropriate language other than English when it may reasonably be anticipated that persons who do not understand the English language will come to the enclosure.

Disposal Procedures

Containers of less than 28 gallons **must** be rinsed and drained at the mix and load site. Except for the containers to be returned to the registrant, follow the directions provided in PSIS N-2.

Do not refill or reuse original containers. Destroy canisters and discard in a sanitary landfill. **Do not put pesticides in containers designated for food, drink, or household products.**

PSIS: N2, N3, N5, N8, N10.

Equipment

The employer shall assure that:

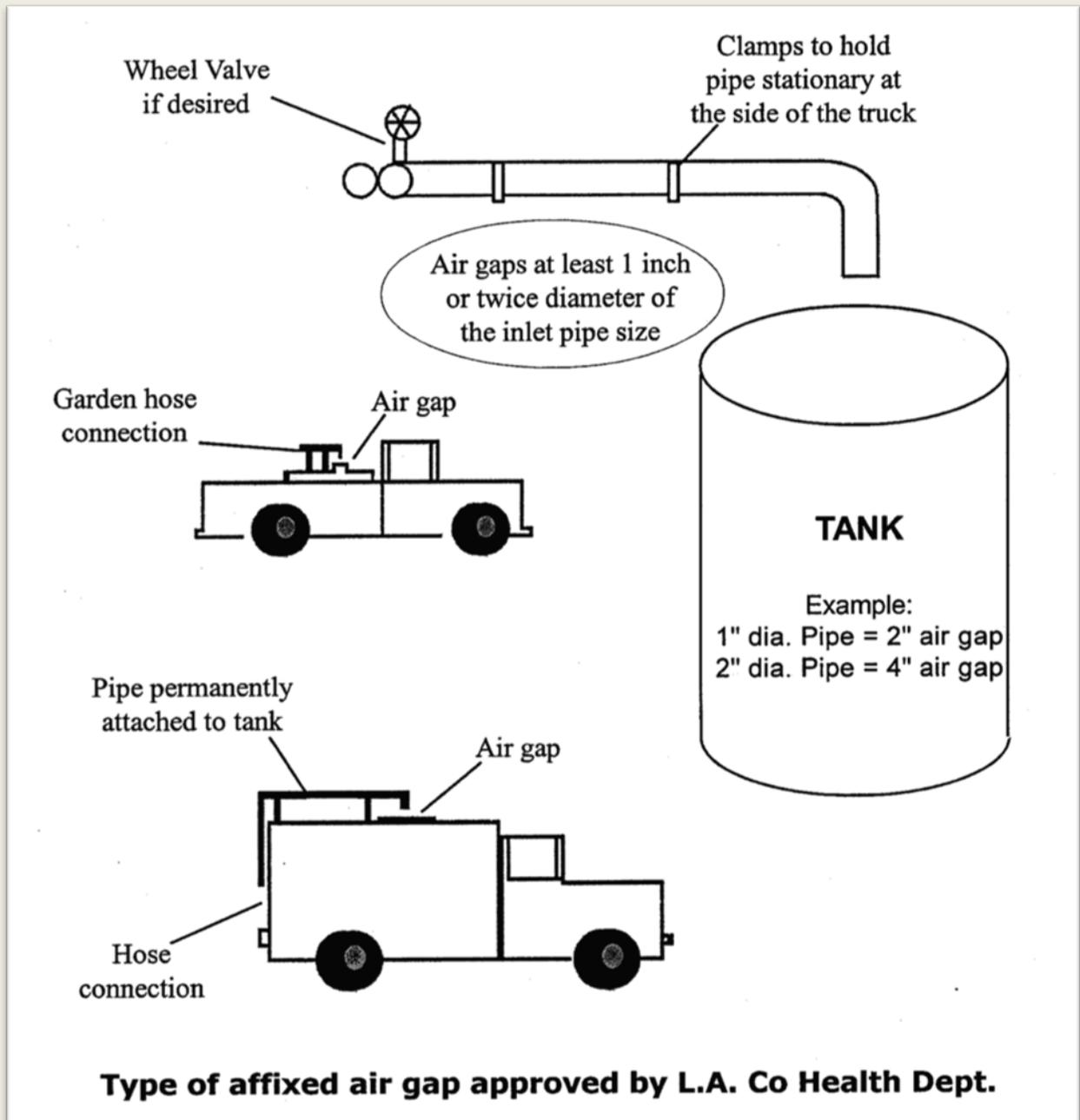
- Equipment used for mixing, loading, transferring or applying pesticides is inspected before each day of use and is safe to operate.
- Openings on tanks used for mixing or applying pesticides are equipped with covers that prevent splashes or spills.
- Tanks with a capacity of more than 49 gallons, that are used to mix or apply a category I or II pesticide, are equipped with either a sight gauge to indicate the liquid level in the tank, or a shut-off device that will automatically stop the filling operation before the pesticide liquid mixture spills over the top.

See PSIS N-10 for the minimal exposure pesticides.

Air Gap

In Los Angeles County, all application equipment **must** have an air-gap separation permanently affixed to the equipment. Backpack type spray equipment with a capacity not exceeding 4 gallons and hand-held sprayers of 3 gallons or less are exempt. They may be filled by hand holding a hose over the tank. The hose must be held well above the tank at all times to prevent contact with the tank or its contents.

EXAMPLE OF AIR GAP SEPARATION



THIS IS A GENERAL GUIDE.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS ARE PERIODICALLY UPDATED.

**THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR KNOWING THE LAWS &
REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN PESTICIDE USE.**

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT YOUR AREA
AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE INSPECTOR.**

Sincerely,

Kurt E. Floren
County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures



For more information and updates, you can access these websites:

County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures
<http://acwm.lacounty.gov>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

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