

Pesticide Label and Container Disposal Requirements

*Natalia Bahena, Agricultural Inspector/Biologist
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner*

Summary:

The pesticide label states the requirements for what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required in order to mix/load and apply the pesticide. PPE required by the pesticide label must be worn by all persons handling that pesticide, as well as provided by the employer. The employer shall assure employees wear gloves unless prohibited by label when required by pesticide labeling, mixing or loading, (some exceptions) and/or adjusting, cleaning or repairing contaminated equipment.

Under California Code of Regulation, Title 3 (3 CCR) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is Regulated through Requirements and Exceptions, such as application by hand or using hand-held equipment, however these exemptions do not apply when the applicator is applying: vertebrate pest control baits using long handled implements that avoid actual hand contact with the bait or potentially contaminated areas of equipment.

Service Containers are defined as any container, other than the original labeled container of a registered pesticide provided by the registrant, which is utilized to hold, store, or transport the pesticide or the use-dilution of the pesticide. In no case shall a pesticide be placed or kept in any container of a type commonly used for food, drink or household products.

When Pesticides are being transported on public roads, they must be labeled with the name and address of the person or firm responsible for the container, identify of the economic poison in the container and the word "Danger," "Warning," or "Caution," in accordance with the label on the original container.

Decontamination Facility provided by the employer shall assure the applicators have available sufficient water for decontamination, single-use towels, soap, and an extra set of coveralls (even if coveralls not required by label). If the label requires the applicator to wear eye protection then 1 pint of eye wash must be immediately available. For Ag uses, the decontamination site shall be at the mixing loading site and no more than ¼ mile (or nearest point of vehicular access). For Non Ag uses, the decontamination site shall be within 100 feet of the mixing/loading site, if the applicator uses pesticides with the signal word DANGER or WARNING.

In order to dispose of Pesticide Containers applicator must triple rinse the container at the use site to be able to recycle the containers at the marina Landfill. Recycling is free, all that's required is that the containers are triple rinsed, labels are removed as well as the caps.