

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 171.5

pregnant women, and elderly people, is frequently a potential problem, applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of the specific factors which may lead to a hazardous condition, including continuous exposure in the various situations encountered in this category. Because health related pest control may involve outdoor applications, applicators must also demonstrate practical knowledge of environmental conditions, particularly related to this activity.

(8) *Public health pest control.* Applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of vector-disease transmission as it relates to and influences application programs. A wide variety of pests is involved, and it is essential that they be known and recognized, and appropriate life cycles and habitats be understood as a basis for control strategy. These applicators shall have practical knowledge of a great variety of environments ranging from streams to those conditions found in buildings. They should also have practical knowledge of the importance and employment of such non-chemical control methods as sanitation, waste disposal, and drainage.

(9) *Regulatory pest control.* Applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of regulated pests, applicable laws relating to quarantine and other regulation of pests, and the potential impact on the environment of restricted use pesticides used in suppression and eradication programs. They shall demonstrate knowledge of factors influencing introduction, spread, and population dynamics of relevant pests. Their knowledge shall extend beyond that required by their immediate duties, since their services are frequently required in other areas of the country where emergency measures are invoked to control regulated pests and where individual judgments must be made in new situations.

(10) *Demonstration and research pest control.* Persons demonstrating the safe and effective use of pesticides to other applicators and the public will be expected to meet comprehensive standards reflecting a broad spectrum of pesticide uses. Many different pest problems situations will be encountered in the course of activities associated with

demonstration, and practical knowledge of problems, pests, and population levels occurring in each demonstration situation is required. Further, they should demonstrate an understanding of a pesticide-organism interactions and the importance of integrating pesticide use with other control methods. In general, it would be expected that applicators doing demonstration pest control work possess a practical knowledge of all of the standards detailed in §171.4(b). In addition, they shall meet the specific standards required for paragraphs (c) (1) through (7) of this section as may be applicable to their particular activity.

Persons conducting field research or method improvement work with restricted use pesticides should be expected to know the general standards detailed in 171.4(b). In addition, they shall be expected to know the specific standards required for paragraphs (c) (1) through (9) of this section, applicable to their particular activity, or alternatively, to meet the more inclusive requirements listed under "Demonstration."

(d) *Special standards.* This space reserved for possible issuance of Special Standards.

(e) *The above standards do not apply to the following persons for purposes of these regulations.* (1) Persons conducting laboratory type research involving restricted use pesticides; and

(2) Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Veterinary Medicine applying pesticides as drugs or medication during the course of their normal practice.

§ 171.5 Standards for certification of private applicators.

(a) Competence in the use and handling of pesticides by a private applicator will be determined by procedures set forth below. State standards must conform and be at least equal to those prescribed herein. As a minimum requirement for certification, a private applicator must show that he possesses a practical knowledge of the pest problems and pest control practices associated with his agricultural operations; proper storage, use, handling and disposal of the pesticides and containers; and his related legal responsibility.

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This practical knowledge includes ability to:

(1) Recognize common pests to be controlled and damage caused by them.

(2) Read and understand the label and labeling information—including the common name of pesticides he applied; pest(s) to be controlled, timing and methods of application; safety precautions; any pre-harvest or re-entry restrictions; and any specific disposal procedures.

(3) Apply pesticides in accordance with label instructions and warnings, including the ability to prepare the proper concentration of pesticide to be used under particular circumstances taking into account such factors as area to be covered, speed at which application equipment will be driven, and the quantity dispersed in a given period of operation.

(4) Recognize local environmental situations that must be considered during application to avoid contamination.

(5) Recognize poisoning symptoms and procedures to follow in case of a pesticide accident.

(b) Such competence of each private applicator shall be verified by the responsible State agency through the administration of a private applicator certification system which ensures that the private applicator is competent, based upon the standards set forth above, to use the restricted use pesticides under limitations of applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. A certification system shall employ a written or oral testing procedure, or such other equivalent system as may be approved as part of a State plan.

(1) In any case where a person, at the time of testing for certification, is unable to read a label, the responsible State agency may employ a testing procedure, previously approved by the Administrator, which can adequately assess the competence of such person with regard to all of the above standards. Certification must be related and limited to the use and handling of each individual pesticide for which he desires certification at any time. Therefore, the applicator will be authorized to use only the pesticide(s) for which he has demonstrated competence. A

specific procedure is required for §171.5(a)(2) relating to label comprehension, with testing designed to assure his knowledge of the following:

(i) Understanding of the label and labeling information including those items indicated in that subsection.

(ii) Sources of advice and guidance necessary for the safe and proper use of each pesticide related to his certification.

(2) [Reserved]

§171.6 Standards for supervision of noncertified applicators by certified private and commercial applicators.

(a) Certified applicators whose activities indicate a supervisory role must demonstrate a practical knowledge of Federal and State supervisory requirements, including labeling, regarding the application of restricted use pesticides by noncertified applicators.

The availability of the certified applicator must be directly related to the hazard of the situation. In many situations, where the certified applicator is not required to be physically present, “direct supervision” shall include verifiable instruction to the competent person, as follows: (1) Detailed guidance for applying the pesticide properly, and (2) provisions for contacting the certified applicator in the event he is needed. In other situations, and as required by the label, the actual physical presence of a certified applicator may be required when application is made by a noncertified applicator.

(b) [Reserved]

§171.7 Submission and approval of State plans for certification of commercial and private applicators of restricted use pesticides.

If any State, at any time, desires to certify applicators of restricted use pesticides, the Governor of that State shall submit a State plan for that purpose. The Administrator shall approve the plan submitted by any State, or any modification thereof, if the plan in his judgment—

(a) Designates a State agency as the agency responsible for administering the plan throughout the State. Since several other agencies or organizations may also be involved in administering