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New Proposed Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Rule from EPA - Public Comment Period Now Open

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Abstract
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a proposal for a new certification and training rule for pesticide applicators who apply restricted use pesticides. The current rule has been in place since 1974. According to EPA: “The goal of this proposed rule is to reduce the likelihood of harm from the misapplication of toxic pesticides and ensure a consistent level of protection among states. EPA has determined that use of restricted use pesticides would be safer with increased supervision and oversight.

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New Proposed Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Rule from EPA - Public Comment Period Now Open

August 26, 2015

By Kristine Schaefer and Betsy Buffington, Department of Entomology

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a proposal for a new certification and training rule for pesticide applicators who apply restricted use pesticides. The current rule has been in place since 1974.

According to EPA: “The goal of this proposed rule is to reduce the likelihood of harm from the misapplication of toxic pesticides and ensure a consistent level of protection among states. EPA has determined that use of restricted use pesticides would be safer with increased supervision and oversight. EPA is proposing stricter standards for people certified to use restricted use pesticides and to require all people who apply restricted use
pesticides to be at least 18 years old. Certifications would be renewed every three years. Additional specialized licensing is also proposed for certain methods of application that can pose greater risks if not conducted properly, such as fumigation and aerial application. Individuals working under the supervision of certified applicators would now need training on using pesticides safely.”

More information about the proposal and certification for pesticide applicators can be found at EPA’s pesticide-worker-safety.

Comments on the proposed changes can be made at www.regulations.gov in docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183.

EPA is accepting comments on the proposal until November 23, 2015.

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