

PESTICIDE GENERAL INFORMATION

Pesticide Law and regulation

Pesticides are widely used in agriculture, sanitation, disease and pest control. Pesticide law and regulation are designed to protect human health and the environment while preserving the beneficial uses of pesticides. The following summary is taken from a variety of laws and regulations.

General requirements

- general prohibition on any activities that will harm humans or the environment
- pesticide registration, testing, management of risk
- licensing of applicators, pilots, advisors and businesses
- inspections and enforcement
- permit conditions and record keeping required for use
- regulated only by the "label" for more benign materials
- regulation of residual on food or animal feed

Worker protection standards

- restricted entry after application
- sanitation to allow clean up after use or exposure

Environmental protections

- coastal zone protection (to prevent degradation of coastal waters)
- Clean Water Act standards (swimmable water)
- Safe Drinking Water Act standards (drinkable water)
- waste management

Drift provisions

- use restrictions on certain materials
- buffer zones to ensure safety
- investigations of all potential incidents
- research on fumigant substitutes

Further information available

Fact sheets and Material Safety Data Sheets available for pesticides

Records of pesticides used and patterns of use for adjacent farmland (public records)

Emergency information (CA Department of Emergency Services)

Department of Pesticide Regulation; website at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>

Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner (805) 933-8415

National Pesticide Telecommunication Network (800) 858-7378
or website at <http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/>

EPA Pesticide Program (703) 305-5017 or website at www.epa.gov/pesticides