

# EPA Worker Protection Standard “in a nutshell”

April 20, 2018 Faculty meeting handout

- Per WPS standards, revised 2015, all employees that are likely to come in contact with pesticide treated areas (e.g. agricultural fields, annual/perennial/woody ornamental or confined space plant production) are required to complete a WPS training module annually. Agricultural establishment operators are legally required to ensure that employees are trained to at least the “worker” level. Failure to provide training can result in a fine (if inspected) or open the operator to civil or criminal liability in the case of an accidental pesticide exposure. Training materials must have an EPA approval number. Trainers must be “qualified” under a specific set of guidelines.
- “MSU has determined all hourly employees are workers when they are out in the field” – Dean Suzanne Lang, conversation with John Stone 8/28/2017.

## Training materials and training sessions

- EPA approved .ppt presentation or through watching an EPA approved video
- Workers can be trained as either:
  - “Workers” – employees involved in production or maintenance of the crop.
  - “Handlers” –any worker that is likely to handle (i.e. mix, load, apply under direct supervision of a licensed pesticide applicator) pesticides are required to be trained at the Handler level.
- Training must be delivered in a manner that can be understood, in a location relatively free from distractions.
- When training workers or handlers, the trainer must remain present at all times to be available to answer questions, even when showing a video.

## WPS qualified trainers must meet one of these criteria:

- Hold a current pesticide applicator certification credential from any U.S. State or territory.
- Complete an EPA-approved Train-the-Trainer (TTT) course.
- Become designated as a trainer by the state’s lead agency – MDARD- for regulating pesticides.

## Exemptions:

- Certified pesticide applicators.

## Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative: <http://pesticideresources.org//index.html>

- Current WPS training materials for both trainers and workers: <http://pesticideresources.org/wps/temp/training/index.html>
- WPS Quick Reference Guide – <http://pesticideresources.org/wps/hosted/quickrefguide.pdf>

- WPS check off lists -  
<http://pesticideresources.org/wps/htc/htcmanual.pdf#page=134>

### **Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification:**

- Any person applying pesticides for hire, or applying pesticides as part of a job description must have Commercial Certification.
- Commercial Certification is obtained by passing the Commercial Core exam and at least one Category exam with a score of 70% or higher.
- Categories based on the site(s) where pesticides are applied.
- Category 10 –demonstration and research. There is no exam for this certification category. The current MDARD certification manager has determined an applicator making applications for these purposes must take a Category exam relevant to the pesticide application site.

### **Study manuals:**

- **On line orders:** <https://npsecstore.com/pages/michigan>
- **On Campus:** Tom Smith's office – 4<sup>th</sup> floor Morrill Agriculture Hall

### **MDARD Exams:**

- \$75.00 check or money order to: "State of Michigan".
- Exam schedule and locations: [www.michigan.gov/pestexam](http://www.michigan.gov/pestexam)
- Computer based testing is available. \$55.00 per test in addition to the \$75.00 MDARD fee. Location: 556 East Circle Drive Room 237, East Lansing, 48824, Michigan.

### **Certification process information web sites:**

MDARD: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1569\\_16988\\_35289---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1569_16988_35289---,00.html)  
MSU PSEP: [http://www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide\\_education\\_safety/certification](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide_education_safety/certification)