

## ■ FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT

### TERMS:

**Pesticide Labeling** — Every pesticide product made, sold or used in the United States must be labeled in accordance with standards prescribed in the Act. Among other required information, the label must contain a statement of ingredients, a statement indicating if the product is for general or restricted use, and the name and address of the manufacturer. If the product contains any highly toxic substance, the label must also display the skull-and-crossbones symbol, the word "Poison" in red letters, and a statement of practical treatment in case of poisoning.

**Certification of Applicators** — Anyone who uses or supervises the use of a restricted pesticide must be certified to do so, either by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or by a state agency designated for that purpose under a federally approved plan for applicator certification. As described in brief below, each applicant for certification must demonstrate competency in the use and handling of pesticides.

**Commercial Applicators** — Among other requirements, commercial pesticide applicators (which may include those who use or supervise the use of restricted pesticides in the production of agricultural commodities) must be tested on their knowledge of pesticide labels, pesticide hazards, precautions and first-aid procedures, pesticide equipment, application techniques, and pesticide laws and regulations. Commercial agricultural pest control applicators must, in addition, demonstrate practical knowledge of crops and the particular pests commonly associated with each crop, soil and water problems, pre-harvest application intervals, re-entry intervals, and the potential for environmental contamination, non-target injury, and community problems resulting from the use of pesticides in agricultural areas.

**Private Applicators** — Private pesticide applicators (which may include farm owners and operators who use or supervise the use of restricted agricultural pesticides on their own or someone else's property) must, among other things, be able to (1) read and understand pesticide labeling information, (2) apply pesticides in accordance with label instructions and warnings, (3) recognize poisoning symptoms and take appropriate action in case of a pesticide accident, (4) know how to avoid contamination of ground and surface water, and (5) understand pre-harvest and restricted-entry intervals.

**Recordkeeping** — Every certified applicator is required to keep accurate records of each use of restricted pesticides, including (1) the name and address of the person for whom the pesticide was applied, (2) the location of the pesticide application, (3) the target pest, (4) the specific crop and location where the product was applied, (5) the date and time of application, (6) the name and EPA registration number of the pesticide applied, (7) the dosage used, and (8) the amount of product disposed of, method of disposal, date of disposal, and location of the disposal site.

**Prohibited Acts** — Among other offenses defined in the law, pesticide applicators are forbidden from using any registered pesticide contrary to instructions on the product's label, failing or refusing to keep required records, making false records or reports, failing to observe any restrictions shown on their certificate, or violating any provision of the Act or the associated regulations.

**ENFORCEMENT:** Any state that has adopted adequate pesticide use laws and regulations, has adequate procedures for their enforcement, and agrees to keep required records and make required reports, may enter into an agreement with the federal government for the enforcement of pesticide use restrictions. Under such an agreement, the state has primary responsibility for enforcing the provisions described above.

**All states except Wyoming currently have such authority.** For agency information, see the first entry under "Pesticides & Agricultural Chemicals" for the state of interest.

In Wyoming and in any other state where the cooperating state agency fails to take appropriate action to assure compliance, the Act is enforced directly by the *Office of Pesticide Programs, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460 (703-305-7090)*.