



California Department of Pesticide Regulation

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Fiscal Operations
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Information Technology
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Medical Toxicology
916-445-4233

Product Compliance
916-445-4159

Pest Management and Licensing
916-445-3914

Licensing/Certification
916-445-4038

Personnel
916-322-4553

Pesticide Registration
916-445-4400

Worker Health and Safety
916-445-4222

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW about

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

Winery use of sulfur dioxide

When wineries add sulfur dioxide (SO₂) to wine as an antioxidant and preservative, the SO₂ is not considered a pesticide. However, when sulfur dioxide is used to sanitize corks, barrels and equipment, the compound is legally classified a pesticide. That means that only an SO₂ product registered as a pesticide with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) can be used to sanitize corks, barrels and equipment. (A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances used to kill or control a pest. A pesticide may be a chemical substance, biological agent, antimicrobial, disinfectant, or device used against any pest.)

Check the product label to make sure there is an "EPA Registration Number," and that the intended use is on the label. Using unregistered SO₂ for winery sanitation (for example, using a product bought for fermentation use that lacks a pesticide registration) is against the law and subject to fines and penalties.

Sulfur dioxide is a corrosive, deadly gas. Winery workers must carefully follow safety rules whenever they use SO₂, whether as a pesticide or not. However, extra rules must be followed when the gas is used as a pesticide.

The only SO₂ product registered for winery sanitation is a federally restricted-use pesticide. That means certain requirements must be met to buy or use it:

- **Only certified applicators can use or buy restricted pesticides.** Federal and state laws require that any person who uses or supervises the use of a federally restricted-use pesticide must at a minimum hold a qualified applicator certificate (QAC) or a qualified applicator license (QAL). Getting a

QAC or QAL requires passing two examinations given by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Proof of certification is required for each purchase of pesticidal sulfur dioxide.

- **Operator identification number is also needed for purchase.** Wineries must present an operator identification number to buy a federally restricted-use pesticide. You can get an operator ID from the county agricultural commissioner (CAC).
- **Recordkeeping and reporting of pesticide use is required.** Wineries must keep records of how much pesticidal SO₂ they use and send use information to the CAC on a monthly summary pesticide use report.

What's required to get certified or licensed to buy or use pesticidal SO₂?

Federal and state laws require each winery that buys or uses a restricted pesticide to have at least one employee with a QAC or QAL. This requires passing two DPR examinations: "Laws, Regulations and Basic Principles"; and the "Category P - Microbial Pest Control" exam.

Detailed information on how to get a qualified applicator certificate or qualified applicator license is available at www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on

ANOTHER OPTION

Smaller wineries that have few occasions to sanitize equipment, barrels and corks may choose to hire a licensed pest control business to do their sanitation work. These businesses must have the necessary licenses to buy and use SO₂.

The only SO₂ product currently allowed to be used for winery sanitation is a federally restricted-use pesticide. Federal and state laws require anyone who uses or supervises the use of a federally restricted-use pesticide to have a qualified applicator certificate or qualified applicator license.

"A-Z Index" to the left, and scroll to "Qualified applicator certificate" or "Qualified applicator license." These are the basic steps:

- Submit an application to DPR to take the two exams. In section "D - Examinations," check boxes indicating you want to take the "R - Laws and Regulations" and "P - Microbial Pest Control" exams.
- When you send in your application as a new applicant, you must pay an application fee of \$40 (QAC) or \$80 (QAL), plus a \$50 fee for each exam. That means QAC applicants will have to send a \$140 check and QAL applicants \$180. You need a score of at least 70 percent to pass each exam, and you have one year after you send your application to pass.
- To prepare for the Laws and Regulations exam, you should study the *Laws and Regulations Study Guide (2001 edition)* and *The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides*. Download the first publication from DPR's Web site, www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/lcpubs.htm. You can buy the second for \$35.00 from the University of California, <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/IntegratedPestManagement/3324.aspx>, or call 1-800-994-8849 and ask to order Publication 3324.

- The second exam, Microbial Pest Control, will focus on your ability to read and understand the safety precautions and other information on a pesticide label.

DPR schedules exams from January through October each year, throughout the state. Download a schedule from www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on "Licensing," then "Exam schedule."

Are there other requirements to be a QAC or QAL?

All QACs and QALs must take approved continuing education classes every two years before their certificates or licenses can be renewed. For more information, go to www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on "Licensing," then "Continuing education."

Need more information?

Go to www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on "A-Z Index," then "Qualified applicator certificate" or "Qualified applicator license." Or call DPR's Licensing Office, Ligaya Zapanta, 916-445-4054 (QAC information), or David Cervantes, 916-445-4030 (QAL information), or by e-mail to LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov.

RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING OF SULFUR DIOXIDE USE

California law requires that all agricultural operations file reports of their pesticide use. Each month, wineries that use SO₂ as a sanitizer must send a Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report to their CAC. (You don't have to report nonpesticidal uses of SO₂.) The reporting form (#PR-ENF-060) and instructions can be downloaded from www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on the red "Forms" Quick Finder link in the center of the page, then "Pesticide Use Reporting." Reports must be sent by the tenth of each month following the month in which the application was made.

To calculate use, weigh the SO₂ cylinder at the beginning and end of each month. The difference between the two readings is the pounds of sulfur dioxide used that month. Enter that number in column C of the form. Under column D, applications made to multiple barrels on a single day can be reported as one application. In column E, enter "91" (the code for other fumigation).

C	D	E	F
TOTAL PRODUCT USED (Check One Unit of Measure)	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	CODE	COMMODITY OR SITE TREATED
<input type="checkbox"/> LB <input type="checkbox"/> OZ <input type="checkbox"/> PT <input type="checkbox"/> QT <input type="checkbox"/> GA			
<input type="checkbox"/> LB <input type="checkbox"/> OZ <input type="checkbox"/> PT <input type="checkbox"/> QT <input type="checkbox"/> GA			



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from DPR by calling
916-445-3974,
or can be downloaded
from DPR's Web site,
www.cdpr.ca.gov,
click on the
"A-Z Index" then
"Sulfur dioxide use in
wineries" link.