(a) Every registrant of any production agricultural- or structural-use pesticide product sold for use in this state that is packaged in rigid, nonrefillable, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers of 55 gallons or less shall establish a recycling program, or demonstrate participation in a recycling program to ensure HDPE containers are recycled. Container recycling must comply with the American National Standards Institute American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers Standard S596, entitled Recycling Plastic Containers from Pesticides and Pesticide-Related Products, as published in February 2006. The records required by these standards shall be maintained for three years and shall be subject to audit by the director.

(b) Any registrant who is required to establish or participate in a recycling program pursuant to this section shall provide to the director, at least annually, a document certifying that this requirement has been met.

(c) (1) The director may adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this section. Upon a federal pesticide container recycling program being adopted, the director may adopt regulations to conform to the federal program.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section that any regulatory standards adopted by the department shall be at least as stringent as those standards referred to in subdivision (a).

(d) Commencing September 1, 2010, the department shall estimate a recycling rate for pesticide containers and propose suggestions for program improvements and post this information annually on its Internet Web site.