



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 1, 2006

WHS 06-03

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: WALLET CARDS TO DECODE LABEL GLOVE MATERIALS CODES

Over the past several years, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has been allowing the inclusion, on the label, of information on the chemical resistance category (“label codes”) for gloves to be used for that pesticide. The operative phrases used on labels include the following:

- **“If you want more options, follow the instructions for Category X on an EPA chemical resistance category selection chart.”**
- **“Chemical resistant gloves Category X”**

The selection of gloves using the label codes not only incorporates chemical resistance to the active ingredient, but also provides protection against the inert ingredients, which could include ketones, alcohols, acetates, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons and halo-hydrocarbons. This approach of matching the best specific glove material to the hazard is definitely a superior practice for preventing handler exposure to both active and inert ingredients. However, there was no practical dissemination of the “decoder” for the label codes. The U.S. EPA website contains the necessary information (<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/equip.htm>), but in a difficult to interpret format that is not readily available in the field. Additionally, the existence of the website is not widely known, so the label code information has very little utility for pesticide handlers who do not have the key.

The Worker Health and Safety (WHS) Branch developed a practical solution to distribute label codes so workers can easily access the safety information without requiring Internet access. WHS designed a small, credit card sized chart that decodes the label codes. These are based on the U.S. EPA information, but include only the information necessary for a handler to make the correct glove selection. To reduce the size of the chart, WHS displayed only glove materials that had a chemical resistance rating of “High”.

We are sending a package of cards to every county agricultural commissioner. We request that you distribute these cards during permit issuance, inspections and any time you might have contact with pesticide handlers. In the future, you may order additional cards through the DPR forms requisition process (form PR-ENF-197).



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If you have any questions about the content of the cards, please contact Harvard Fong of my staff at hfong@cdpr.ca.gov or (916) 445-4211.

Sincerely,

(original signed by C. Andrews)

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

cc: Jim Shattuck, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, DPR
Harvard Fong, Senior Industrial Hygienist, WHS, DPR