



Reducing Smog-Producing Emissions from Nonfumigant Pesticide Products

Overview

General Information

Regulations by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) adopted to cut smog-producing emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from pesticides went into effect in 2013. These regulations set a trigger level of emissions that, if exceeded, would invoke pesticide use limitations to reduce VOC emissions from certain nonfumigant pesticide products (Title 3, California Code of Regulations, sections 6558, 6577, 6880, 6881, 6883, 6884, and 6886). *The VOC emissions in 2013 exceeded the trigger, and therefore limitations will go into effect on May 1, 2015.*

Sales restrictions apply to:

- High-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen
- Applied in the San Joaquin Valley.

Use restrictions apply to:

- High-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen
- Applied in the San Joaquin Valley
- Between May 1 and October 31
- To alfalfa, almonds, citrus, cotton, grapes, pistachios, or walnuts.

What are volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?

VOCs are gases that can combine with other substances in the air to form ground-level ozone (smog). Ozone can damage lung tissue, cause respiratory illness, and harm farm crops. Statewide, pesticides account for about two percent of all VOCs but in several regions they are among the top ten sources.

What are high-VOC products?

As described in section 6880, the regulations apply to certain products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen. Products containing these four active ingredients are designated as either high-VOC, low-VOC, or excluded from the regulations. VOC requirements pertain only to high-VOC products. For the specific criteria used to designate high-VOC products, and list of products, go to www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on “A-Z Index,” then “VOC nonfumigant regulations.”

What is the area affected?

For these regulations, the San Joaquin Valley includes all of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties and the valley portion of Kern County. Pesticide VOC emissions in the San Joaquin Valley are not consistently low enough to meet reduction goals even with prior application method restrictions on fumigants, so additional control measures on nonfumigants have been adopted.



Why are these products and crops regulated?

DPR included products containing these four active ingredients and applications to these seven crops because the inert ingredients in these products and their application to these crops are among the highest pesticide VOC contributors in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, DPR has determined that use of low-VOC products for these pesticides and crops are feasible and will ensure that the specified goal will be consistently achieved.

Pest Control Dealer Requirements (sales restrictions)

Which pest control dealers are affected?

As described in sections 6577 and 6886, licensed pest control dealers selling designated high-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen for agricultural use in the San Joaquin Valley are affected. All California licensed pest control dealers when selling high-VOC products with one of four active ingredients for agricultural use must check the Operator ID Number of the purchaser to ascertain if it was issued by a county agricultural commissioner in the San Joaquin Valley.

What are pest control dealers required to do?

If the purchaser's Operator ID Number was issued by a county agricultural commissioner in the San Joaquin Valley the dealer must provide in writing (at the time of purchase or delivery) specific text information to the purchaser. The requirements for pest control dealers are in effect year-round.

Grower and Pest Control Adviser (PCA) Requirements (use restrictions)

Which growers and PCAs are affected?

As described in section 6883, additional requirements apply to PCAs who recommend and growers who make pesticide applications of:

- VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen
- In the San Joaquin Valley
- Between May 1 and October 31
- To alfalfa, almonds, citrus, cotton, grapes, pistachios, or walnuts.

What are the use restrictions?

As described in section 6883, prior to making the high-VOC applications described above, growers must obtain a written recommendation from a licensed pest control adviser (PCA). Pest control dealers must inform the purchaser of a high-VOC product of this requirement. As described in section 6884, if the specified pesticide VOC emissions level is exceeded, most of the high-VOC applications described above are prohibited.

In order to use the high-VOC products described in section 6883 in the San Joaquin Valley between May 1 and October 31 on the designated crops, growers must obtain a written recommendation from a licensed pest control adviser (PCA). Since the limitations have been triggered for the San Joaquin Valley between May 1 and October 31, the high-VOC products containing the four specified active ingredients cannot be used on the seven named crops. For the specific criteria that determine a high-

VOC product, and list of products, go to www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on “A-Z Index,” then “VOC nonfumigant regulations.” Pest control dealers must inform the purchaser of these restrictions.

How do growers and PCAs know if high-VOC prohibitions are in effect?

DPR notifies interested parties through its VOC email list. To sign up for the VOC email list, go to www.cdpr.ca.gov, and click on “Join E-lists” at the bottom left-hand corner.

DPR determines if high-VOC prohibitions are triggered one time each year. DPR publishes a draft report of pesticide VOC emissions in late summer or early fall and it includes a comparison of the emissions to the trigger level. If triggered, the high-VOC product prohibitions described above would be implemented for the upcoming May-October period. Emissions for May-October 2013 exceeded the trigger level, so high-VOC prohibitions will begin on May 1, 2015.

When are the grower and PCA requirements in effect?

The requirement to obtain a PCA recommendation became effective on May 1, 2014, and is in effect every year during May 1 to October 31. High-VOC prohibitions will go into effect on May 1, 2015. The high-VOC prohibitions must remain in effect for at least two years, so the prohibitions will be in effect for May-October 2016 as well.

Additional Information – Contact Person

Additional information is available at DPR’s website: www.cdpr.ca.gov. Click on “A-Z Index” then “Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Pesticides Project.”

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