

TITLE 3. DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION
Pesticide Registration Branch Regulatory Updates
DPR Regulation No. 26-003

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) proposes to adopt 3 CCR sections 6170.6, 6170.7, 6170.8, and 6173, and amend sections 6000, 6148.5, 6152, 6153, 6154, 6157, 6170, 6170.5, 6193.5, 6194, 6196, 6206 and 6252. DPR also proposes to repeal Application for Pesticide Registration DPR-REG-030 (Rev. 10/24) form, currently incorporated by reference. This proposal will affect the pesticide regulatory program activities pertaining to pesticide registration. In summary, the proposed action will replace previous application forms; require electronic submission of applications to register or amend pesticide products; clarify and reduce requirements for company changes; clarify information required for applications to register and amend pesticide products; including submission of concurrent applications to U.S. EPA and the Department; define application types – new major use, master label, and new active ingredient; establish pesticide labeling and formula changes that may be submitted to the Department as either a notification or non-notification; reduce the fee for notifications; and make other minor changes that include replacing outdated terms and correcting typographical errors.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

Any interested person may present comments in writing about the proposed action to the agency contact person named below. Written comments must be received no later than October 5, 2026. Comments regarding this proposed action may also be transmitted via SmartComment online public comment portal at <<https://cdpr.commentinput.com?id=48H37Vkur>>.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 7920.000 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and any associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone number, or email address) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request. You do not have to provide contact information when submitting a comment using the SmartComment portal.

A public hearing is not scheduled. However, one will be scheduled if any interested person submits a written request to DPR no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.¹

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Background

DPR protects human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use and by fostering reduced-risk pest management. DPR's strict oversight includes: product evaluation and registration; statewide licensing of commercial and private applicators, dealers, and advisers; environmental monitoring; and residue testing of fresh produce. This regulatory scheme is set

¹ If you have special accommodation or language needs, please include this in your request for a public hearing. TTY/TDD speech-to-speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

forth primarily in Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Divisions 6 and 7. The requirements for pesticide registration are outlined in 3 CCR sections 6170 through 6172.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act requires all pesticide products sold or distributed in the United States to be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pesticide products must comply with labeling requirements that are set forth in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 156. Registered pesticide products, certain federally exempt pesticides, and adjuvants are required to be registered by DPR before the product can be sold, distributed, or used in California. California law (Food and Agricultural Code [FAC] section 12824 and 12839) requires DPR to provide a thorough and timely evaluation before a pesticide is registered for the first time and to place appropriate restrictions on its use. DPR's registration evaluation is conducted in addition to U.S. EPA's evaluation. Before a pesticide is registered, both agencies require data on a product's toxicology and environmental fate to evaluate how it behaves in the environment; its effectiveness against target pests and the hazards it poses to non-target organisms; its effect on fish and wildlife; and its degree of risk to human health.

The Pesticide Registration Branch (PRB) serves as the primary point of contact for pesticide product and adjuvant companies (referred to as registrants) and processes all applications for pesticide product registrations, amendments, and renewals, among other activities. The registration process historically has been paper-based and managed manually with limited supporting technology across several systems. Due to the paper-based nature of this process and the limitations of the existing system, submissions must be worked on sequentially rather than concurrently. This sequential process extends review times, makes it difficult for staff to find information efficiently and requires staff to handle and physically route large volumes of paper, resulting in delays to the registration process. In addition, the paper-based registration process can delay the registration of newly developed, innovative products that offer safer and sustainable pesticide alternatives.

The CalPEST system recently took the place of the paper-based pesticide registration process and allows applications for new products, amendments to currently registered products, and renewals to be submitted, processed, and accepted electronically through DPR's website. The implementation of CalPEST has modernized the administration of DPR's pesticide product registration program.

Summary of the Effect of the Proposed Regulatory Action

DPR proposes to amend and adopt specific subsections throughout sections 6000 through 6252 related to pesticide registration. The proposed changes are intended to modernize and streamline registration procedures by reducing administrative requirements for company name changes, clarifying processes for company ownership changes and product transfers, adopting existing processes for notification and concurrent submission into regulation, and reducing fees for notification submissions to reflect their simplified review process. The proposal also includes defining key pesticide regulatory terms to improve consistency and understanding. Lastly, the proposed regulations will update and adopt application forms to align with DPR's CalPEST system, fully replacing the paper submission process. These updates will ensure accurate data collection and support DPR's comprehensive evaluation of pesticide products for sale and use in California.

Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

These changes are necessary to improve efficiency and reduce processing delays. Incorporating existing processes into regulation, aligning forms with CalPEST, and requiring electronic submission of applications will standardize the submission process, strengthen data integrity, enable better reporting and analytics, and ensure compliance with state and federal standards. Reducing fees for notifications recognizes the lower level of review required for these submissions, providing cost savings for registrants while maintaining regulatory oversight. By streamlining procedures and clarifying requirements, DPR will save time and resources for both registrants and the Department, reduce backlogs, and support DPR's mission to protect public health and the environment through clearer requirements and more accurate information for risk assessment and regulatory oversight. In addition, the proposal will facilitate the review and registration of newly developed, innovative products that offer safer and sustainable pesticide alternatives on the market.

Evaluation of Inconsistency/Incompatibility with Existing State Regulations

During the process of developing these proposed regulations, DPR conducted a search of any similar regulations on this topic and has concluded that these proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The proposal will not interfere or otherwise impact other state agencies as DPR is the only agency that regulates pesticides within the State.

Incorporated by Reference Form:

Application for Pesticide Registration DPR-REG-030 (Rev. 10/24) *Repealed*

IMPACT ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

DPR determined that the proposed regulatory action does not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts. DPR also determined that there are no costs to any local agency or school district requiring reimbursement pursuant to Government Code section 17500 et seq. There are no other nondiscretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies that are expected to result from the proposed regulation action.

OTHER NONDISCRETIONARY COST OR SAVINGS IMPOSED UPON LOCAL AGENCIES

There are no other nondiscretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies that are expected to result from the proposed regulation action.

COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES

DPR determined that no savings or increased costs to any state agency will result from the proposed regulatory action.

EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING TO THE STATE

DPR determined that no costs or savings in federal funding to the state will result from the proposed action.

EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

DPR made an initial determination that the proposed action will have no effect on housing costs.

SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT DIRECTLY AFFECTING BUSINESSES

DPR made an initial determination that adoption of this regulation will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

COST IMPACTS ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSONS OR BUSINESSES

DPR is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

DPR has determined that the proposed regulatory action may affect small businesses.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Impact on the Creation, Elimination, or Expansion of Jobs/Businesses: DPR determined it is not likely the proposed regulatory action will impact the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses, or the expansion of businesses currently doing business with the State of California. Businesses affected by these regulations are pesticide registrants applying for pesticide registration in California. The proposed regulations clarify registration requirements and amend the pesticide application forms. The businesses affected by these regulations, already submit pesticide applications and data to DPR and any new information being requested is readily available as part of their business practices. Thus, proposed changes and additions are not expected to have a significant economic impact to businesses. Proposed changes and additions are intended to facilitate the submission and review of new product and amendment application forms by transitioning to electronic submission of information instead of requiring businesses to print out information, which can include numerous volumes of data, and mail hard copies of all the information. Additionally reducing fees for amendments submitted by notification will provide cost savings for registrants.

The proposed regulations will benefit the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and State's environment by allowing DPR have the necessary information to evaluate pesticides before they are sold and distributed in California.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

DPR must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the agency, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less

burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulatory action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of the law.

AUTHORITY

This regulatory action is taken pursuant to the authority vested by FAC section 11456, 11502, 12005, 12111, 12531, 12561, 12781, 12824, 12836, 12836.5, 12845, 12976, 12812, 13127, 13145, 13146, 14001, 14004.5, 14005, and 14006.7,

REFERENCE

This regulatory action is to implement, interpret, or make specific FAC section 11401-12121, 12501-12671, 12751-13102, 13127, 13127.2, 13127.6, 13127.91, 13127.92, 13128, 13134, 13143, 13145, 13146, and 14001-14104

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

DPR prepared an Initial Statement of Reasons and is making available the express terms of the proposed action, all of the information upon which the proposal is based, and a rulemaking file. A copy of the Initial Statement of Reasons and the proposed text of the regulation may be obtained from the agency contact person named in this notice. The information upon which DPR relied in preparing this proposal and the rulemaking file are available for review at the address specified below.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After the close of the comment period, DPR may make the regulation permanent if it remains substantially the same as described in the Informative Digest. If DPR does make substantial changes to the regulation, the modified text will be made available for at least 15 days prior to adoption. Requests for the modified text should be addressed to the agency contact person named in this notice. DPR will accept written comments on any changes for 15 days after the modified text is made available.

AGENCY CONTACT

Written comments about the proposed regulatory action; requests for a copy of the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the proposed text of the regulation; and inquiries regarding the rulemaking file may be directed to:

Ashley Anderson, Regulations Coordinator
Department of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, California 95812-4015
279-399-8005

Note: In the event the contact person is unavailable, questions on the substance of the proposed regulatory action may be directed to the following back-up person at the same address as noted below:

Jolynn Mahmoudi-Haeri, Senior Environmental Scientist
Pesticide Registration Branch
916-324-3545

This Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the proposed text of the regulation are also available on DPR's Internet Home Page <<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>>. Upon request, the documents can be made available in another language, or an alternate form as a disability-related accommodation.

AVAILABILITY OF FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Following its preparation, a copy of the Final Statement of Reasons mandated by Government Code section 11346.9(a) may be obtained from the contact person named above. In addition, the Final Statement of Reasons will be posted on DPR's Internet Home Page and accessed at <<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>>.