

PESTICIDE LABEL - WHAT YOU AND YOUR CUSTOMER NEED TO KNOW

Glenn Nice ^{1/}

“The Label is the Law,” a statement you probably have heard over and over again. However, this is as simple as it gets. When you purchase or use a pesticide you enter into an agreement that you will use this tool according to its label. However as custom applicators you are being contracted out to go on other people’s property to use this tool. Communication between you and your customer is important, in fact it can be state law.

Having an idea from your records or from your customer of sensitive areas around the application site is important. Aerial applications require at least 24-hour notice before the application. Although it is the landowner’s responsibility to notify any bee keepers who have requested pre-application notification, it is your responsibility to let the customer know that you are applying a pesticide that is “Highly Toxic to Bees,” and in enough time for them to do this.

The Worker Protection Standard requires that your customer notify their workers orally or by signs of fields that have been treated. They are also required to post information about the applications that occur on their farms. For a customer to do this, they will need to know that you are applying and what. At the time of application any important safety information has to be provided. An example of this might be the Restricted Entry Interval. Provide any specific safety information that might be on the label just before or just after application.

Finally, record keeping is the responsibility of the applicator. However, there is information that has to be given to the customer after application. You have 30 days after application to provide after application information. Most companies provide this in their bill of sale or invoice of service. These include: Applicator or business phone number; applicator license number; the crop; commodity or site to which the pesticide was applied; specific location of application; date; start and stop time; pesticide brand name or product name or chemical name; EPA Registration Number; amount applied; Post-application precautions (pre-harvest interval, REI, irrigation restrictions, etc.); copy of pesticide label or notice that they can get one on request.

^{1/} Pesticide Applicator Training, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison.