Top Pesticide Safety Violations and Practical Solutions



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#10 Decontamination Facilities — 3 CCR §6734

- Decontamination site must be within 100 feet of the mix/load site when handling DANGER or WARNING pesticides (non-production ag uses)
- Must provide soap, water, single-use towels and a clean change of coveralls
- Common violation: decontamination supplies located too far from the mix/load site

#9 Labeling at the Use Site — 3 CCR §6602

- A copy of the registered labeling that allows the use must be available at each use site
- Common violation: a Special Local Need [24(c)] label is not at the use site
- Common violation: labeling at the use site does not match any labeling registered with DPR

#8 Notice of Intent — 3 CCR §6434

- Notice to the County Agricultural Commissioner before applying a pesticide that requires a permit
- Must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the application
- Some permit conditions require more notice (for example, 48 hours) for certain pesticides
- Submit by phone, fax, or CalAgPermits

#7 Hazard Communication for Fieldworkers — 3 CCR §6761

- Display a completed Pesticide Safety Information Series A-9 leaflet at the worksite or central location
- Also display at permanent decontamination facilities serving 11 or more fieldworkers
- Keep pesticide use records and Safety Data Sheets accessible to fieldworkers
- Update medical information within 24 hours of any change

#6 Handler Training — 3 CCR §6724

- Handling includes mixing, loading, transferring and applying pesticides, or assisting with an application
- Employer must have a written training program covering each pesticide or chemically similar group
- Train before handling; keep the program while in use and for two years after
- Common violation: no written program or no documented training record

#5 Application Specific Information Display — 3 CCR §6761.1

- Display before any fieldworker is allowed to enter the treated field
- Must show crop or site treated and the start and end dates and times
- Must show pesticide name, active ingredient and EPA registration number
- Must show the restricted entry interval and any adjuvants used

#4 Pest Control Business Registration — FAC §11701 / §11732

- A license is required to advertise, solicit or perform pest control for hire
- Businesses must register annually with the County Agricultural Commissioner in every county where they operate
- Pest control includes any use or application of a pesticide, including plant growth regulation

#3 Emergency Medical Care — 3 CCR §6726

- Employer must plan in advance for emergency medical care of employees who handle pesticides
- Post the name, address and telephone number of the medical facility at the worksite
- Take any employee suspected of a pesticide illness to a medical facility immediately

#2 Personal Protective Equipment — 3 CCR §6738

- Employer must provide all PPE required by the label, regulations and permit conditions
- Common violation: PPE not used correctly or not used for its intended purpose
- Common violation: damaged, contaminated or improperly stored PPE
- PPE must be inspected, cleaned, maintained, and must fit properly

#1 Labeling and Permit Conditions — FAC §12973

- The label is the law — it is a violation of federal law to use a product inconsistent with its labeling
- Not following the application requirements listed on the product label
- Applying to a site or crop not listed on the label
- Conflicting with the registered labeling or with any restricted material permit condition
- Includes missing buffer zones and ignoring equipment or timing instructions

What's Changing: Proposed Penalty Increases

- June 2026: DPR proposed its first major enforcement update since 2006
- New Class A(1), human health hazard — $3,000 minimum penalty
- New Class A(2), property or environmental hazard — $1,200 to $15,000
- Class B minimum fine rises from $250 to $300
- Repeat Class A violators face at least a 20% increase, based on statewide history
- Track county data in DPR's Enforcement Data Dashboard



Example 1: Mix/Load Check

- Illustrative example: A farm crew mixes a DANGER-labeled product. The wash station is 300 feet away, the label binder is at the shop, and the posted A-9 lists a closed clinic.
- The supervisor pauses the setup, brings supplies and labeling to the site, and updates the clinic information before work begins.



Example 1: Corrections

- Decontamination: Place supplies at the mix/load site. Include water, soap, single-use towels and clean coveralls (3 CCR §6734).
- Labeling: Keep the registered labeling at the use site (3 CCR §6602).
- A-9: Replace the closed clinic details. Update medical information within 24 hours of a change (3 CCR §6761).
- Takeaway: Check the setup before handling begins.

Example 2: Off-Label Use

- Illustrative example: An operator treats a crop not listed on the label. The application information display is missing. A fieldworker enters before the REI expires and reports symptoms.
- Assume the county classifies this as a second Class A violation, with the prior violation in another county. The next slide walks through the proposed penalty example.



Example 2: Penalty Walkthrough

- Off-label use: The crop is not on the label (FAC §12973). Missing application display: 3 CCR §6761.1.
- Illustrative calculation using the proposal: $3,000 base × 20% = $600 increase. Total: $3,600.
- This assumes Class A(1) and a 20% repeat increase. Statewide history includes the prior county violation.
- Proposal only, not current law or an actual fine. The county determines classification and penalties.



Questions?

Thank you for your participation!