Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirements for Private Applicators

In South Carolina Private Pesticide Applicators may be required to maintain records or display information on their pesticide applications under three different regulations. Each of these regulations requires that information or records be kept on a per application basis. A given application may be affected by more than one of these regulations. You must consult the regulations and individual pesticide labels for complete information.

USDA Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirement

The Federal Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act (FACT) spells out recordkeeping requirements for Private pesticide applicators.

- Private pesticide applicators must keep records of their Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) applications for a period of 2 years from the date of the application.
- Private Pesticide applicators must complete the record for an application within 14 days following the application.
- Specific recordkeeping elements under FACT are:
  - the brand or product name,
  - EPA registration number (EPA Reg. No.) of the Restricted Use Pesticide applied,
  - the total amount of product applied,
  - the size of the treated area (or units),
  - the crop, commodity, stored product or site to which the pesticide was applied,
  - the actual location of any application, including any spot application,
  - the month, day and year of the application,
  - the certified applicator’s name, and
  - the license number of the certified applicator.

South Carolina Backflow Prevention, Chemigation Act (SCBPCA)

- SCBPCA affects ALL chemicals (fertilizers, plant growth regulators, pesticides—both general use and Restricted Use) applied to agricultural crops, nurseries, turf, golf courses, greenhouse sites, or land through irrigation equipment. This includes overhead irrigation, trickle or drip irrigation, etc.
- The ability to use pesticides in chemigation is on the individual product label. Many labels specifically prohibit use in chemigation.
- SCBPCA affects any chemigator, whether or not the individual is a Certified Applicator.
- When the water supply used in chemigation is a public water supply, the applicator must comply with SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control’s (DHEC) State Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Records are to be kept for two (2) years and can be met as notations on the chemical purchase invoice or production logs.
- The information to be recorded and kept:
  - type chemical applied,
  - date of the application,
  - rate of chemical applied,
  - site, and
  - water source

EPA’s Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

The revised WPS (2015) now has a pesticide record-keeping requirement. The WPS still requires that specific information on individual pesticide applications be displayed for a specified time period: the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) of the pesticide +30 days. Beginning January 1, 2017, The WPS requires ag employers - who may or may not be Certified Applicators - to maintain the pesticide safety information and pesticide application and hazard information for each pesticide application,
when it is required to be displayed, for two (2) years from the date of the end of the REI of the application.

- The information to be displayed and maintained:
  - a copy of the safety data sheet - SDS – new
  - Name, EPA registration number (EPA Reg. No.), and active ingredient(s) of the pesticide product
  - the crop or site treated and the location and description of the treated area, the date(s) and times the application started and ended,
  - the duration of the applicable labeling-specified restricted-entry interval for that application

- The WPS covers ALL pesticides (Restricted Use and general use) used in the production of agricultural plants. See the WPS and individual pesticide labels for additional information.

- The WPS affects agricultural employers (agricultural plant production: farms, nurseries, greenhouses, and forestry operations). It does not matter whether or not the ag employer is a Certified Applicator.

- Other record keeping required by the WPS
  The WPS requires pesticide safety training for ag workers and ag handlers. Ag employers must maintain records of worker and handler training for two (2) years. Required information for the record of training includes the trained worker’s or handler’s name and signature, the date of training, the trainer’s name, evidence of the trainer’s qualification to train, the employer’s name, and which EPA-approved training materials were used.

Recordkeeping Tips & Additional Information

- **Note:** Additional information on specific pesticide applications may be requested for related medical treatments, pesticide emergencies, or by customers/clients under pesticide regulations.

- **TIP:** Universities and commercial companies have paper forms and software to assist you in your recordkeeping.

- **TIP:** Remember – two (2) years. Under the SC Backflow Prevention, Chemigation Act and the USDA Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirement, records must be maintained for two (2) years from the date of each application. Again, the WPS now requires application records to be maintained for two years after the REI of the application.

- **TIP:** Records for the various regulations do not have to be kept individually; you can keep a single, comprehensive set of application records, provided that you keep all required data elements. The records can be on paper, or in a computer file, or both.

- **TIP:** There are three (3) pesticide identifiers and they are all found close to each other on the pesticide label:
  1) The BRAND (Trade) or PRODUCT name,
  2) The COMMON CHEMICAL name (active ingredient name), and
  3) The EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.).

  The recordkeeping regulations above vary in which of the pesticide identifiers they require, but because you may be required to keep pesticide application records under more than one regulation, use all three pesticide identifiers any time you record application information. That way, you don’t have to worry about which regulation you are keeping records for.

- **TIP:** Occasionally the pesticide label does not have the common chemical name of the active ingredient on it, rather, it has the full chemical name. You can often find the common chemical name on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the product.

  *An example: A pesticide product called “FURY INSECTICIDE” lists the active ingredient name on its label as: S-Cyano (3-phenoxyphenyl)methyl (±) cis/trans 3-(2,2dichloroethenyl)-2,2 dimethylcyclopropane carboxylate. The SDS provides, in addition to the chemical nomenclature, the common chemical name, in this case zeta-cypermethrin.*

- **TIP:** The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service encourages ALL pesticide applicators to keep good records of ALL their pesticide applications. Good application records not only meet regulatory requirements but provide information you can use to trouble-shoot application/control problems, or to duplicate control successes. You should keep any additional information in your records that would be useful to YOU, including weather information such as temperature, wind speed and direction, etc.; method of application; nozzle tip size; spray pressure; application rate; ground speed; boom height; drop-spreader settings; etc.

  *An example: If a pesticide label instructs you to “Apply only when the wind speed is less than 10 mph. ...wind speed must be measured adjacent to the application site on the upwind side, immediately prior to the application,” you should not only make this measurement, but record it in your application record.*

More information on pesticide recordkeeping is available from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, your county Extension Pesticide Training Coordinator, the Department of Pesticide Regulation or the Clemson University Pesticide Safety Education Program web site.

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/pest_ed/