



The Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) Conference 2023

EPA – Office of Pesticide Program (OPP) Updates

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Office of Pesticide Program Initiatives:

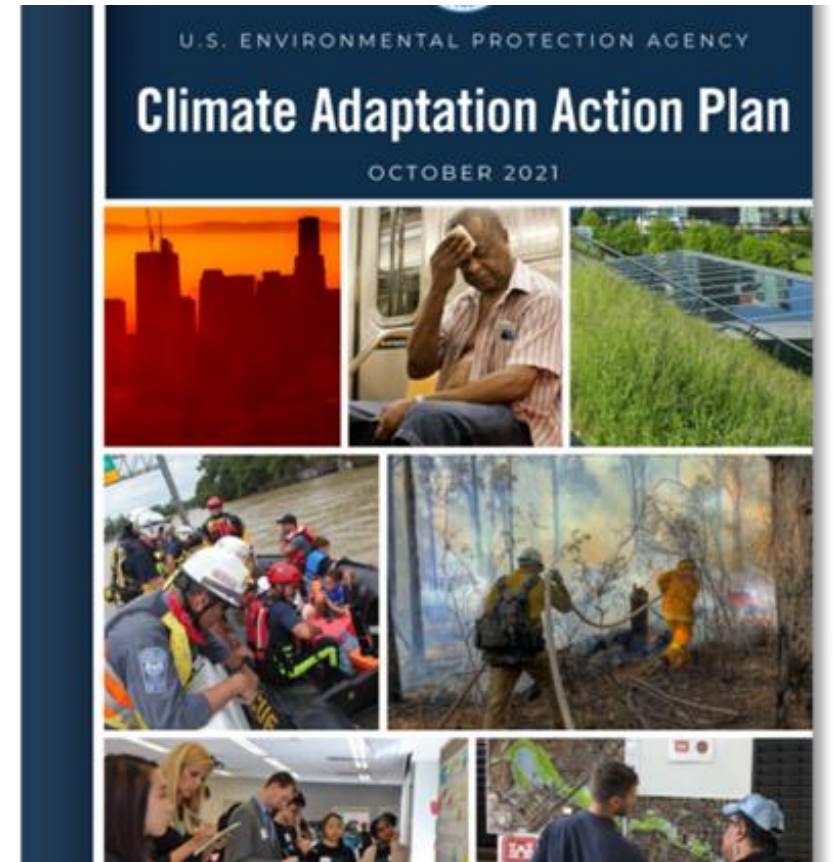
- Climate Change
- Environmental Justice
- Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule
- Bilingual Labels
- Rodenticides
- PFAS



EPA's Approach to Climate Change

- General background on climate change is available at:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange-science/basics-climate-change>
- Focus is Adaptation and not Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Climate adaptation is **taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change.**

[U.S. EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan](#)



Vulnerabilities Identified For OPP:



1. Pest complex changes (species population levels, potential resistance)
2. Novel disease vectors and invasive species
3. Changes in chemical production practices
4. Damage due to extreme weather
5. Infrastructure supply chain impacts (changing climate could induce disease outbreaks requiring disinfectants/more PPE)
6. Agricultural practice adaptation (changes in pest pressure/crop tolerance)
7. Institutional use practice adaptation (e.g. increased use of pesticides in schools, hospitals, potential resistance concerns)
8. Endangered species and pollinator impacts (habitat, climate)
9. Outdated tools and methods to measure and reflect climate change
10. Outdated critical data

Climate Change Adaptation Plan Priorities

- Integrate climate adaptation into programs, policies, rulemaking, and enforcement activities.
- Consult and partner with stakeholders to strengthen adaptive capacity/increase the resilience of the nation, with a focus on advancing environmental justice.
- Implement measures to protect our resources, including EPA's workforce, facilities, infrastructure, supply chains, procurement processes from climate risks.
- Measure and evaluate performance.
- Identify and address climate adaptation science needs.



Office of Pesticide Program Initiatives:

- Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice under FIFRA

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

The primary objective of FIFRA is to ensure that, when applied as instructed, **pesticides will not generally cause unreasonable risk to human health or the environment.**



FIFRA Provisions that Align with Environmental Justice Principles:

- Protecting workers from adverse effects of pesticides.
- Risk assessments - Assessing risk to human health and the environment.
- Risk management - If risks of concern to workers are identified, evaluate potential risk management protections to those exposed.
- Implement programs to protect workers.



OPP Implementing Programs to Protect Workers

- Agricultural Worker Protection Standard improvements
- Pesticide Poisoning Incident Data
- Pesticide Applicator Certification Regulation



Pesticide Poisoning Incidents

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-incidents/introduction-pesticide-incidents>

- **July 2023**, EPA Posts 10 years of incident data to our website.
 - Raw data that is not previously reviewed by EPA.
- EPA's incident reports contained in Incident Data System (IDS) include data from:
 - pesticide manufacturers (registrants) - required to submit reports of unreasonable adverse effects from their products
 - reporting by the public through other entities (including state regulators for pesticide enforcement)
 - information submitted directly to EPA
 - National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)
 - American Association of Poison Control Centers



Office of Pesticide Program Initiatives:

- Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule



Certification Pesticide Applicators Rule (CPA)

1. Rule that established requirements for Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) was revised in 2017.
2. Set standards for States, Tribes and Federal Agencies to administer programs to certify applicators.

New in the Rule:

- Minimum Age - for certified & noncertified applicators

For Certified Applicators:

- Raises competency gauge for private applicators
- Establishes a few new application method-specific categories
- Establishes criteria for applicator recertification programs

For Noncertified Applicators under Direct Supervision

- Requires competency of noncertified applicators
- Establishes standards for supervision of noncertified applicators



CPA Rule Regulatory Deadline for Certification Plans

- FIFRA requires an EPA-approved Certification Plan for RUP applicator certification programs, that need modification because of 2017 rule revision
- EPA's regulatory deadline for Certification Plan approval
 - **November 4, 2023** (extended from March 4, 2022)
 - No additional extensions
- See Docket# EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0831 at www.regulations.gov



Certification Plan Reviews & Approvals Status

- 68 certification plans in total
- 40/68 certification plans approved (SLA + Federal)



6 Tribal Plans:
No approvals yet



56 SLA Plans:
35 approved



6 Federal Agency
Plans:
5 approved



Bilingual Labels - Requirements

- Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) 5 amended FIFRA, to require Spanish language translation for sections of product labels where translation is available in the EPA Spanish Translation Guide.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/spanish-translation-guide-pesticide-labeling>
 - The Guide will serve as a resource for pesticide registrants.
- The Spanish language translation must appear on the product container or a link with scannable technology or other electronic methods readily accessible on the product label.



Bilingual Labels – Implementation

- Label changes made through **non-notification**. A change may be made to a pesticide label without notifying EPA.
- EPA shall **cooperate and consult** with State lead agencies to implement bilingual labeling.
- EPA shall develop, implement **a plan for tracking** the adoption of the bilingual labeling – **2 years** (Dec 2024).
- EPA shall implement a plan to ensure that **farmworkers have access** to the bilingual labeling – **3 years** (Dec 2025).

Comments due August 21, 2023. EPA–HQ–OPP–2023–0270



Rodenticides Update

- The draft risk assessments were completed in 2020.
- The proposed interim decisions (PIDs) for 11 rodenticides were released in November 2022:
 - included additional human health and ecological risk mitigation, including potential effects on federally listed endangered and threatened (listed) species (ESA)
- The Interim Decisions for the rodenticides are scheduled for after the draft Biological Evaluation in November 2023, likely in 2024.



Rodenticides Update continued...

- The Agency received ~22,000 comments, which are currently being reviewed to determine if modifications are needed to the proposed mitigation.
- The Agency has met with registrants, the Anticoagulant Rodenticide Task Force, and Federal partners, continuing to take comments into consideration.



Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Pesticide Products

- OPP Update on May 30th - EPA announced PFAS study results: did not find any PFAS in the tested pesticide products.
 - EPA released its **validated analytical methodology** used in the testing process alongside the summary of its findings.
 - Validated methodology is specifically targeted to **detect the presence of PFAS in pesticide products formulated with surfactants**.
- Results differed from a published study in the Journal of Hazardous Materials.

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>



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Get pesticide news story updates by email:

- Go to [epa.gov/pesticides](https://www.epa.gov/pesticides)
- Go to the “Recent Highlights and Pesticide News” box in the right corner
- Click on “View more pesticide news” at the top
- Go to the “Other Resources” box at the right
- Under, “Get pesticide updates by email,” enter your email address and click “Sign up”





Thank you!

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