



# Regulatory Framework for Pesticide Use in California

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# What are pesticides?

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Pesticides are chemicals designed to be toxic to a target pest and purposely introduced into the environment to manage insects, bacteria, weeds, rodents, or other pests.



# Regulatory Agencies

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US Environmental Protection Agency



California Department of Pesticide Regulation



County Agricultural Commissioner



**US EPA**

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## **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)**

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Federal statute that governs the registration, distribution, sale, and use of pesticides in the United States.

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Basis of the U.S. system of pesticide regulation to protect applicators, consumers, and the environment.

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**California law must be as or  
more restrictive than FIFRA.**

# US EPA – Product Registration

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Before manufacturers can sell pesticides in the United States, EPA must evaluate the pesticides thoroughly to ensure that they meet federal safety standards to protect human health and the environment.



Potential registrants must generate scientific data necessary to address concerns pertaining to the identity, composition, potential adverse effects, and environmental fate of each pesticide.



# US EPA – Product Registration

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**Human health risk assessments** estimate the nature and probability of harmful health effects in people who may be exposed to pesticides:

- in the food and water they consume;
- in the air they breathe;
- through their work; or
- as a result of activities that may lead to contact with pesticide residues on treated surfaces.



# US EPA – Product Registration

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**Ecological Risk Assessments** evaluate the likelihood that a pesticide will harm wildlife or the environment.

**Environmental Fate** studies include:

- how the pesticide breaks down in water, soil, and light;
- how easily it evaporates in air;
- and how quickly it travels through soil.





# California Department of Pesticide Regulation

Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

# DPR – Product Registration

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In addition to federal registration, pesticides must also submit to scientific evaluation by DPR prior to sale or use in California.



DPR scientists review efficacy, safety, and environmental data along with the protective measures on the US EPA registered labels to determine if the product can be used safely in California's unique and varied settings.



DPR may require additional information for evaluation, add restrictions to the pesticide label (with US EPA approval), and approve or deny registration applications.

# Pesticide Labels

The label is the main source of information on how to use the product correctly, safely, and legally.

Using a pesticide in a way that is different from what the label says is against both Federal and State laws.

<b>Reckon® LV</b>	
<b>insecticide</b> by <b>ToxCo®</b>	
<b>Active Ingredient:</b>	<b>By Weight</b>
— Methomyl (S-methyl-N-[(methylcarbamoyl) oxy]thioacetimidate) .....	29%
<b>Inert Ingredients</b> .....	71%
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	100%
<b>Water Soluble Liquid</b>	
Contains 2.4 lbs active ingredient per gallon.	
EPA Reg. No. 000-000	
EPA EST. No. 0000-XX-0	

Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Do not breathe vapors or spray mist. Pilot should not assist in the mixing and loading operation.

**WARNING SYMPTOMS**—Methomyl poisoning produces effects associated with anticholinesterase activity which may include weakness, blurred vision, headache, nausea, abdominal cramps, discomfort in the chest, constriction of pupils, sweating, slow pulse, muscle tremors. If warning symptoms appear, refer to Statement of Practical Treatment on front panel of Reckon®—LV label and seek medical attention at once.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**  
Some materials that are chemical-resistant to this product are listed below. If you want more options, follow the instructions for category B on an EPA chemical-resistance category selection chart.

**Applicators and other handlers must wear:**  
Long-sleeved shirt and long pants.  
Chemical-resistant gloves, such as barrier laminate or butyl rubber.  
Shoes plus socks.  
Protective eyewear.

# Pesticide Labels – Signal Words

The toxicity categories on pesticide labels are CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, and DANGER/POISON. These are determined by US EPA based on the acute (short-term) toxicity data conducted on the pesticide product.

Note: These are not the same as the signal words found on Safety Data Sheets (SDS), which are overseen by the Occupational Health and Safety Hazard Administration (OSHA). SDS documents only use the signal words WARNING and DANGER.



# DPR - Continuous Evaluation

After registration, DPR conducts continuous monitoring and surveillance to determine the fate of pesticides in the environment and to detect and address unforeseen effects on human health.

- Pesticide illness surveillance program
- Human exposure monitoring
- Residue testing on produce
- Air monitoring
- Ground and surface water monitoring
- Identifying trends in use violations
- Evaluating new data and reports

# California Pest Control Licensing

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The California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) license individuals and companies to perform pest control for hire.



Statewide licensing of commercial applicators, dealers, consultants, and other pesticide professionals ensures they are adequately trained to use pesticides safely.



Pest management professionals maintain their qualifications through testing and continuing education requirements.

# Statewide Enforcement

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DPR is responsible for delivering an effective statewide pesticide regulatory program, with local enforcement authority delegated to County Agricultural Commissioners under DPR's guidance and oversight.



DPR and SPCB draft regulations that place additional restrictions on pesticide use to mitigate identified potential adverse impacts.



State of California has primacy over pesticide law. Local municipalities may not regulate pesticide use outside of their own operations.

# Laws and Regulations

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DPR and County Agricultural Commissioners enforce State pesticide laws and regulations to protect urban, agricultural, and natural environments as well as to protect the people working with and around pesticides.

- Food and Agricultural Code
- Business and Professions Code
- California Code of Regulations





# County Agricultural Commissioners

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Under State law, the County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for administration of pesticide use enforcement programs at the local level.

# County Agricultural Commissioners

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## Compliance Monitoring

Conduct 24 distinct types of inspections covering use monitoring, records, storage and safety inspections in varied settings and over different industry groups.

## Investigations

Investigate incidents of injury and illness caused by or suspected to be caused by a pesticide or pesticide use violation.

# County Agricultural Commissioners

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## Permitting

Administer a permitting system for use of highly hazardous active ingredients designated as California restricted materials.

## Business Registration

Verify that every entity performing pest control activities for hire in the County is qualified to do so.

# County Agricultural Commissioners

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## Enforcement Response

Take appropriate enforcement action when violations of laws and/or regulations are discovered.

## Outreach

Proactively provide regulatory training, tools, and updates for industry compliance assistance and public education.

THANK  
YOU!



Orange County Agricultural Commissioner



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