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# OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN PESTICIDES USE

**MARCO ANTONIO S. VALEROS, MD,CFP,MPA**



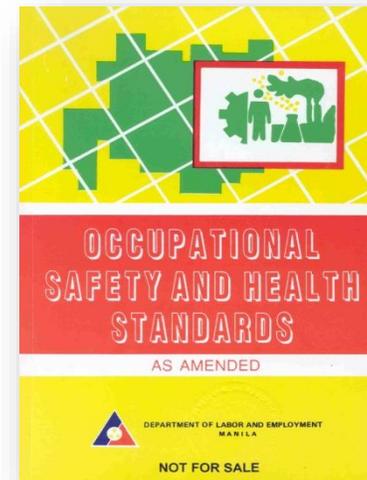
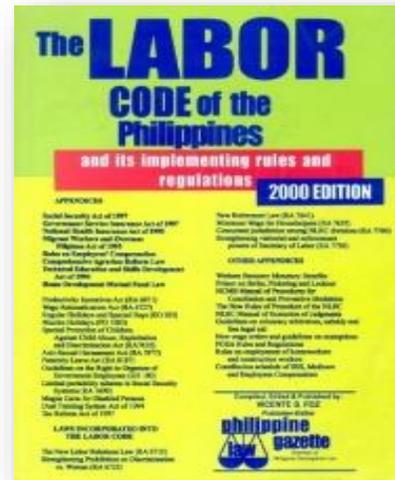
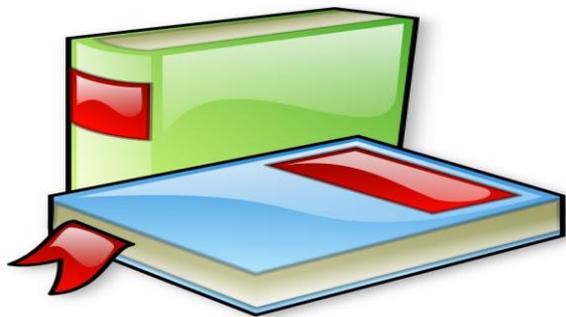
**BUREAU OF WORKING CONDITIONS**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**



# LEGAL BASES:



- ❑ 1987 Philippine Constitution
- ❑ Labor Code of the Philippines
- ❑ RA 11058
- ❑ Occupational Safety and Health Standards
- ❑ DO 136-14



# Basic Considerations:



1. The company will only use pesticides that are registered and approved by the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority.
2. Applicators must adhere to the instructions of the product label.
3. The pesticides and other chemicals that are present in the workplace shall be labelled using the GHS in compliance to DOLE DO 136 s. 2001
4. It shall also be accompanied by Safety Data Sheet for the information and guidance of the workers on transport, storage and handling.
5. Where practicable, the company shall use the product which is least toxic to people and the environment.





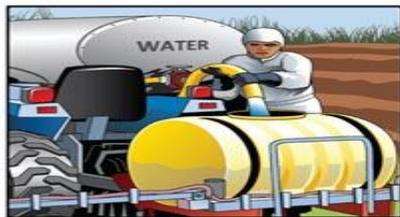
6. Applicators including pilots for aerial spraying must be duly trained by competent authorities as determined by the FPA.
7. The company shall adhere to the prescribed exclusion/buffer zones, and restrictions as set by the EMB-DENR.
8. The focal occupational health personnel and/or the HR shall keep record of spraying operations for a period of at least three years. The records must include the name of clients (when applicable), location, date of conduct of pesticide application and rates of application of chemical products.
9. The Company's Health and Safety Committee shall oversee the operationalization of the company's Pesticide's OSH Program.
10. Emergency procedures must be established in the event of a poisoning, spill, or fire.



# PERSONNEL SAFETY:



- ❑ Only qualified and trained personnel/workers shall be allowed to mix, load, or apply pesticides. The same qualification shall be applied for personnel in charge of cleaning and maintaining pesticide.
  - ❑ Under MC 2 s 1998 Guidelines on Classifying Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, working with chemicals is a hazardous work, thus no person below the age of 18 shall be allowed to work in the premises.
  - ❑ Closed mixing and loading systems processes are encouraged.
- Posting of warning signs after application should be done to caution the other workers from entering the site.



**Step 1**  
Fill the spray tank at least half full.



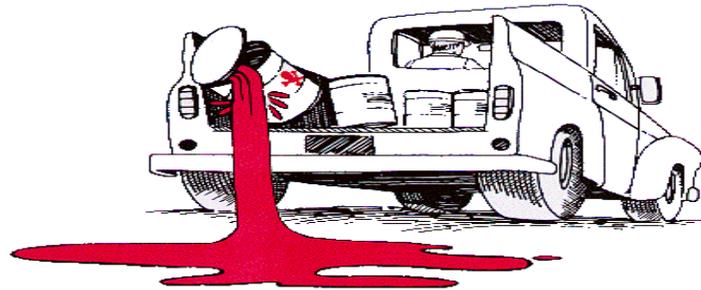
**Step 2**  
Add any water conditioners like buffers and salt adjuvants that contain ammonium sulphate.



**Step 3**  
Add products that are contained in water-soluble sachets.



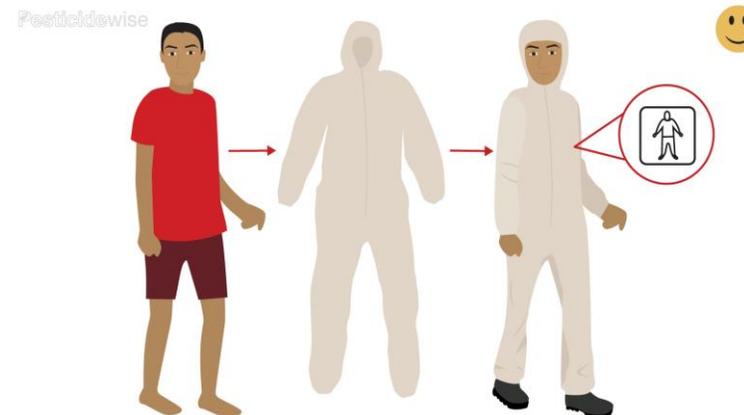
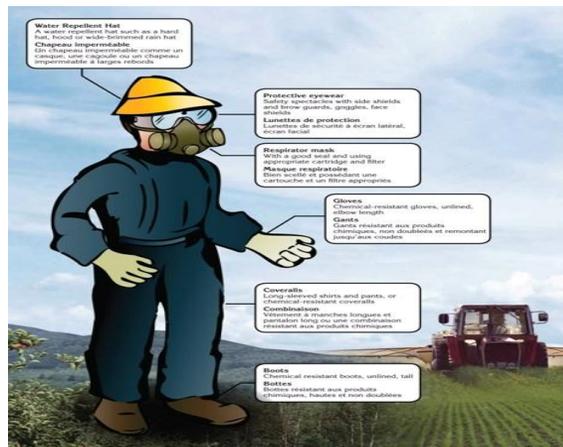
- ❑ Workers are encouraged to adhere to the Standard Practices for Pesticide Applicators.
- ❑ Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be provided to the employees by the company free of charge in compliance to Rule 1080 of the OSH Standards.
- ❑ In the event of accidents or other incidents, the employer should ensure that investigations are made as required under OSHS Rule 1050
- ❑ Causes of the incident are identified and corrective measures are put in place to prevent recurrence.
- ❑ First aid capability must be provided on site as required by the OSH Standard.



# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT/ RELATED FACILITIES



- ❑ This should only be used as a means of hazard control if other means, such as substitution, engineering, and administrative controls are not sufficient to protect workers.
- ❑ The worker is provided with and wears suitable protective clothing and equipment.
- ❑ Contaminated protective clothing and equipment shall be stored in a secure place and shall not be used until laundered or cleaned thoroughly





- ❑ Adequate facilities as shower room or services to launder contaminated protective clothing are provided.
- ❑ At least one change of outer protective clothing for each worker is available at the work site
- ❑ A change room or sheltered place is provided where workers can change clothes and store personal clothing while wearing protective clothing



# Transport/Storage/Handling of Pesticides



- Companies must comply with environmental legislations as well as the requirements set by appropriate government agencies in transport of pesticides.
- Companies must ensure that the driver is trained in emergency spill procedure, carry a spill clean-up kit that includes items such as a shovel and chemical neutralizer.
- Do not transport pesticides in the passenger compartment of any vehicle.
- Do not allow anyone to ride in the back of a truck stored with pesticides.
- Secure all pesticide containers to prevent accidental spillage





- ❑ Protect powders and dusts in paper containers from rain and moisture.
- ❑ For the storage of bulk or reserve quantities of pesticides, the employer must provide a storage facility that meets the requirements of the OSH Standards.
- ❑ Safe pesticide storage involves both storage facility design and safe practices in the storage facility.
- ❑ Factors to consider when designing a storage facility include location, building materials, entrances, ventilation, plumbing, lighting, and insulation.





- ❑ Do not store pesticides in a basement. Dangerous vapors and gases are more difficult to ventilate from a basement than from a ground level structure.
- ❑ Whenever possible, use fire-resistant materials. Gypsum board interiors are preferable over wood panelling. A concrete floor with curbs to contain spills is preferred to wood.
- ❑ Explosion-proof wiring, switches, and fixtures are necessary for storage of flammable pesticides.



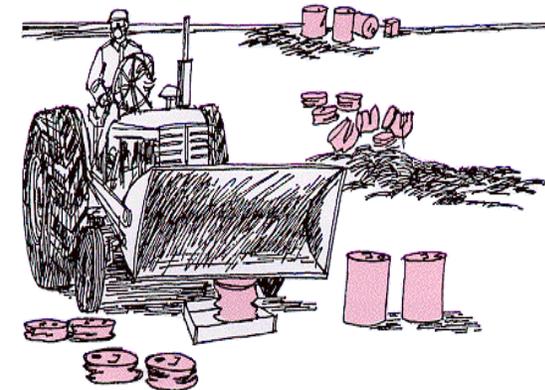


- ❑ Always separate incompatible pesticides and chemicals. (From a health and safety perspective, the term “incompatible” describes those chemicals which, on contact with each other, can create a hazardous condition such as a fire, explosion, or release of toxic gases. Most pesticides are easily ignited or oxidized. Maneb and mancozeb are combustible on contact with water.)
- ❑ Always store pesticides in the properly labelled container using the GHS prescribed format with the label clearly visible.
- ❑ Persons handling pesticides which react strongly to alcohol, shall abstain from alcoholic drinks at least ten hours before operations.
- ❑ Be prepared for emergencies. It is a safe practice to provide emergency supplies such as a first aid kit and spill clean-up equipment at the pesticide storage area.
- ❑ Emergency phone numbers should be displayed next to the telephone.

# MIXING AND LOADING PROCEDURES



- Before handling a pesticide, read the product label and consult the material safety data sheet.
- Before handling a pesticide, put on the proper personal protective equipment.
- Ensure that proper emergency facilities, including washing facilities and first aid equipment, are provided.
- Closed mixing and loading systems have been shown to reduce worker exposure to pesticides, and must be used when required.
- Environmental conditions Mix pesticides only in good light and with adequate ventilation. Stand upwind to minimize airborne exposure.



# Health Surveillance:



1. Health surveillance shall be observed in order to monitor and ensure workers well-being. This shall include information on cholinesterase monitoring program, which can provide a means of health surveillance for workers exposed to organophosphate and carbamate pesticides.

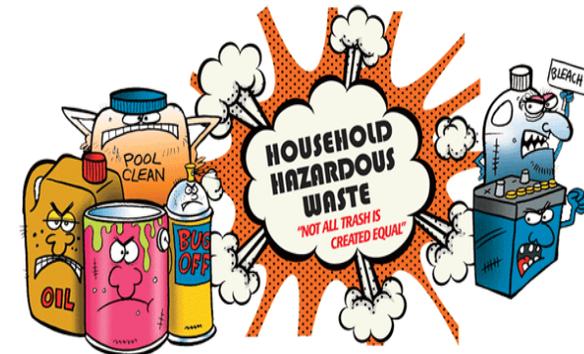
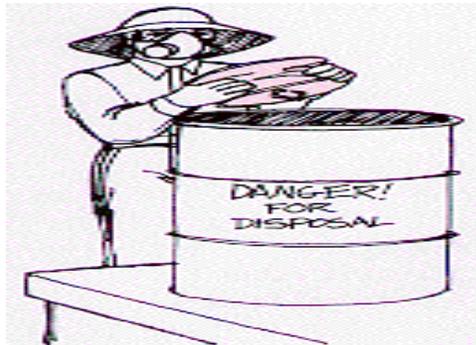
2. Persons working with pesticides shall have pre-employment, periodic, special examination, return to work, transfer and separation from employment examinations as provided under Rule 1967.02.



# Disposal of Unwanted Materials



1. Pesticides and fertilizer containers shall be returned to supplier if practicable.
2. Pesticides for disposal shall be disposed off in accordance with RA 6969.





# THANK YOU

For inquiries, you can reach us at

**DOLE Hotline - 1349**

**bwcsecretary@gmail.com**

**527-3000 local 303 or 307**