

## Revisions to EPA's Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule

On December 12, 2016 EPA finalized stronger standards for people who apply restricted use pesticides. These revisions to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule and supporting materials are available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), under docket ID # EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183.

Stronger standards for those applying restricted use pesticides will reduce risks to the individuals applying these pesticides in their daily jobs and help protect our families, communities, and environment from pesticide exposure.

### EPA's revised rule:

- Enhances applicator competency standards to ensure that restricted use pesticides are used safely.
- Establishes a first time-ever nation-wide minimum age of 18 for certified applicators and persons working under their direct supervision, with a limited exception.
- Requires all applicators to renew certifications at least every 5 years.
- Requires specialized certifications for people using certain application methods (fumigation and aerial).
- Requires first time annual safety training and increased oversight for persons working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Training includes reducing take-home pesticide exposure to protect families.
- Includes options for establishing certification programs in Indian Country that acknowledge tribal sovereignty.
- Clarifies and streamlines requirements for states, tribes, and federal agencies to administer their own certification programs.
- Provides flexibility for states in multiple ways, including allowing states to outline their own recertification programs for EPA's approval, versus EPA establishing one national recertification program.

### Quick Facts on Restricted Use Pesticides & Certified Applicators

- Restricted use pesticides equal ~5% of the total pesticide products registered by EPA.
- There are 1 million certified applicators nationwide.
- The revised rule could prevent up to almost 1,000 acute illnesses/year.

For additional information on the rulemaking: [www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety](http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety)

For technical questions: Carolyn Schroeder, [schroeder.carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:schroeder.carolyn@epa.gov)

For media inquiries: Cathy Milbourn, [milbourn.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:milbourn.cathy@epa.gov)