

From: [Yarger, Ryne](#)
To:
Subject: Request for Voluntary Feedback - Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (40 CFR 170) Training, Notification, and Recordkeeping; Information Collection Request
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 11:21:00 AM
Attachments: [WPS ICR Consultation Questionnaire 2491.07.docx](#)
[WPS ICR Supporting Statement EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0316-0013.pdf](#)

Hello,

My name is Ryne Yarger, and I am a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist and Team Lead in the Worker Protection & Intergovernmental Affairs Branch in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). I am writing to you today to request your assistance and voluntary feedback on an Information Collection Request (ICR) related to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) requirements under [40 CFR 170 \(specifically, Subparts D – G\)](#). I have provided more background on the WPS and why I am reaching out to you for this particular request.

What is the WPS?

The WPS is a regulation primarily intended to reduce the risks of injury or illness resulting from agricultural workers' and pesticide handlers' use and contact with pesticides on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, offering occupational protections to over 2 million agricultural workers and pesticide handlers who work at over 600,000 agricultural establishments. The rule primarily seeks to protect workers (those who perform hand-labor tasks in pesticide-treated crops, such as harvesting, thinning, pruning) and pesticide handlers (those who, for example, mix, load, and apply pesticides). The rule does not cover persons working with livestock. The WPS regulation has provisions requiring employers to provide workers and handlers with pesticide safety training, posting and notification of treated areas, and information on entry restrictions, as well as PPE for workers who enter treated areas after pesticide application to perform crop-related tasks and handlers who mix, load, and apply pesticides, among many other requirements. This regulation is included on certain pesticide product labeling through a statement in an "Agricultural Use Requirements" box on the pesticide label and provides a comprehensive collection of pesticide management practices generally applicable to all agricultural pesticide use scenarios in crop production, complementing the product-specific requirements that appear on individual pesticide product labels.

What is an ICR and why is there an ICR for the WPS?

An Information Collection Request (ICR) is a set of documents a federal agency submits to the [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\)](#) for approval before collecting information from the public. This process is governed by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) to ensure that information requests from agencies are not overly burdensome, have a clear purpose, and are useful. ICRs include the reasons for the collection, an estimate of the time and cost for respondents, and the actual forms, surveys, or questionnaires to be used.

An ICR approval for the WPS is required of EPA because the regulation mandates that agricultural establishments/owners to provide WPS safety trainings to employees, to provide information to employees about pesticide application, restricted entry intervals, and other important pesticide safety information, personal protective equipment (PPE) training and records, and to keep records of trainings and pesticide applications for a period of 2 years, among other activities.

Why are we contacting you?

For the past few months, EPA has been updating its existing ICR to remain in compliance with the PRA. The ICR is titled, **Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Training, Notification, and Recordkeeping**. As part of this process, EPA is required to consult with stakeholders potentially impacted by the burdens in the ICR to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on proposed information collections, ensuring they are necessary, impose minimum burden, and have practical utility. This process allows agencies to receive genuine feedback, address potential issues like privacy concerns, and ensure the information is valuable before it's approved by OMB.

In searching <https://seasonaljobs.dol.gov> and reviewing the various descriptions for listings of occupations and job duties, your agricultural establishment appears to fall within the scope of WPS activities and is potentially well suited to provide us stakeholder perspectives on complying with the WPS requirements.

Request for Voluntary Feedback on the ICR and Burden Estimates:

EPA is reaching out to you for feedback on our estimates to improve our overall assessment of the paperwork burdens related to the WPS. To facilitate this feedback, I have attached a questionnaire asking specific questions to help with us with our refinements. The questionnaire should only take about 15 minutes, and your response is completely **voluntary** – there is no obligation on you (or a representative of your organization) to respond. Should you choose to respond, we ask that you do not submit any sensitive, confidential business information, or business phone numbers as part of your response.

For your convenience, I have attached the following:

- ICR questionnaire
- The WPS ICR Supporting Statement that described the activities under the WPS and our estimates for burden

How to Respond:

If you or your representative choose to provide feedback to this request, please complete the questionnaire and send your responses directly to me by **January 12, 2025**. Alternatively, you may submit the completed questionnaire to the EPA [Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0316](#) at [regulations.gov](#). If I do not hear from you one way or the other, I will assume that you (or an appropriate representative from your establishment) did not wish to submit feedback on this ICR.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration of this request, and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryne Yarger

Team Lead, Worker Protection & Intergovernmental Affairs Branch

Pesticide Re-evaluation Division

Office of Pesticide Programs

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Consultation Questions for ICR Renewal:

Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Training, Notification, and Recordkeeping

ESTABLISHMENT/COMPANY NAME: [Include only the establishment/company name]

(1) Publicly Available Data

- A. Is the data that the Agency seeks available from any public source, or already collected by another office at EPA or by another agency?

- B. If yes, where can you find the data?
(Does your answer indicate a true duplication, or does the input indicate that certain data elements are available, but that they do not meet our data needs very well?)

(2) Frequency of Collection

Can the Agency collect the information less frequently and still produce the same outcome?

(3) Clarity of Instructions

- A. The ICR is intended to require that respondents provide certain data so that the Agency can utilize them.

- B. Based on the instructions (regulations, PR Notices, etc.), is it clear what you are required to do, and how to submit such data? If not, what suggestions do you have to clarify the instructions?

- C. Do you understand that you are required to maintain records?

- D. Considering that there is no required submission format, is it difficult to submit information in ways that are clear, logical, and easy to complete?
- E. Are there forms associated with this process? Do you use them? Are they clear, logical, and easy to complete?

(4) Electronic Reporting and Record keeping

The Government Paperwork Elimination Act requires agencies make available to the public electronic reporting alternatives to paper-based submissions by 2003, unless there is a strong reason for not doing so. One such reason is that, at the present time, the Agency is unable to ensure the security of CBI that might be transmitted over the Internet.

- A. What do you think about electronic alternatives to paper-based records and data submissions? Current electronic reporting alternatives include the use of web forms/XML based submissions via the Agency's Internet site and magnetic media-based submissions, *e.g.*, diskette, CD-ROM, etc. Would you be interested in pursuing electronic reporting?

- B. Are you keeping your records electronically? If yes, in what format?

Although the Agency does not offer an electronic reporting option because of CBI-related security concerns at this time,

- C. Would you be more inclined to submit CBI on diskette (CD or DVD) than on paper?
- D. What benefits would electronic submission bring you in terms of burden reduction or greater efficiency in compiling the information?

(5) Burden and Costs

- A. Is the identified NAICS code representative of your industry?

- B. The Agency assumes there is no capital cost associated with this information collection activity. Is that correct? If not, please describe the investment associated with this activity.
- C. Bearing in mind that the burden and cost estimates include only burden hours and costs associated with the paperwork involved with this ICR, *e.g.*, the ICR does not include estimated burden hours and costs for conducting studies, are the estimated burden hours and labor rates accurate? If you provide burden and cost estimates that are substantially different from EPA's, please provide an explanation of how you arrived at your estimates.
- D. Are there other costs that should be accounted for that may have been missed?