

Invited Presentation Articles

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials' Perspectives on Management of Drift and Secondary Movement

Paul Liemandt

President, Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO)
Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) was formed in 1947, the year that the United States enacted the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as Amended (FIFRA). Members of AAPCO consist of the officers (and staff) charged by law with the execution of state, territorial, provincial, and federal laws in the United States, including all its territories, and in Canada. One of the most daunting challenges for state and other pesticide regulators is the minimization or prevention of pesticide drift, and for instances of substantiated drift, providing effective penalty and deterrent enforcement response. Federal and state law work concurrently to address the illegalities associated with pesticide drift.

FIFRA regulates, in part, through its authority to register/approve of label language, "use directions" that minimize drift potentials or prohibit drift outright. State pesticide control laws vary significantly in scope and detail of drift prohibitions, as well as standards of permissive/impermissible applicator conduct and environmental consequence associated with drift. A few states have little or no state regulations addressing pesticide drift or drift prohibition.

Enforcement of both federal and state "drift law" in the United States is performed by the states. Historical AAPCO enforcement surveys (1990s) show drift occurrences to be common yet categorically more limited than current public perceptions. State misuse investigations indicate that application of pesticide under adverse wind conditions causes most reported drift. Unfortunately, pesticide product labels to date have too often offered confusing, inconsistent, and legally problematic language regarding drift control / drift prohibitions vis-à-vis existing wind conditions. AAPCO and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are working cooperatively to identify such language and implement improvements. [Case Study offered].

Federal pesticide regulators recently pursued an initiative to reduce or eliminate pesticide drift, including specific proposals for pesticide product label language. AAPCO offered alternative language which it believes offers greater simplicity, practicality, and adaptability to the many state "drift" laws. The states responsibilities, desires, and partnership mandates to enforce federally registered labels demands continued direct AAPCO involvement in future US EPA drift reduction initiative discussions.

Presentation Outline

AAPCO Officers and Directors

President, Paul Liemandt, Manager, Environmental Response & Enforcement, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture

Immediate Past President, Tobi Jones, Assistant Director, California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation

President-Elect, Steven Rutz, Director, Div. of Agric. Environmental Services, Florida Dept. of Agric. & Consumer Services

Director, Jack Peterson, Associate Director, Environmental Services Div., Arizona Dept. of Agriculture

Director, Ann Wick, Program Manager, Program Devel, Certification & Training
Washington Dept. of Agriculture

Director, Maureen Serafini, Director, Bureau of Pesticides Management, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Director, Tim Creger, Manager, Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture / Pesticide Program

Invited Presentation Articles

SFIREG Chair, Sharron Stewart, Deputy Administrator, Food & Drug Protection Division, North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Treasurer, Michael K. Fresvik
Secretary, Philip H. Gray

US EPA is Responsible for Pesticide Product Label Language (including Drift Prevention/Prohibition)

States are Responsible
for Enforcement of Pesticide Label Language that Prevents or Prohibits Drift

LAW

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act as amended “FIFRA”
- State Pesticide Control Laws

AAPCO Drift - Enforcement Surveys

Not only aerial (~50/50)

- Not only 1 or 2 active ingredients
- Not just untrained/unlicensed applicators
- Tiered state enforcement response

Pesticide Drift/Secondary Movement

Most significant cause is application under adverse wind conditions.

Excessive wind speed

Pesticide Applicators say-

“Confusing and inconsistent use directions for wind conditions”

Do not apply...

- under windy conditions that will allow spray to drift to adjacent susceptible crops
- when winds are gusty
- if wind speeds are or become excessive or gusty
- when winds are gusty or when other conditions favor poor spray coverage and/or off target spray movement
- when conditions favor drift

Do not spray...

- near sensitive plants if wind is gusty or in excess of 5 mph moving toward sensitive crops
- if wind direction and speed may cause spray to drift onto adjacent non-target areas
- or allow spray drift to contact adjacent crops, which may be injured, by spray drift

Avoid...

- drift to all other crops and non-target areas
- off target drift to sensitive crops
- gusty or windless conditions
- windy conditions
- using near adjacent desirable plants
- conditions that favor drift beyond target areas
- spray drift

Invited Presentation Articles

And do not...

- use when there is a hazard from drifting mists
- apply when winds are gusty or when conditions favor movement or spray particles off desired spray target
- make application when circumstances favor movement from treated site
- permit product to come in contact with susceptible crops

“Establishing Simple Standard for Wide Variety of Site Conditions.” – enforcement dream

“The applicator also must use all other measures necessary to control drift.”

AAPCO’s Suggested Label Language

“Do not apply this product in a manner that allows spray to drift from the application target site and causes or is likely to cause harm to humans, animals or other non-target sites.”

Label Use Directions/Drift Prevention Prohibition

- Outreach/ Education Training
- Compliance Monitoring
- Enforcement
- Reporting

[AAPC Web Site](http://aapco.ceris.purdue.edu)

<http://aapco.ceris.purdue.edu>