



PARAQUAT LABELS HAVE CHANGED

All paraquat registrants must comply with the label changes mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Paraquat Human Health Mitigation Decision and amendment. In addition, users must comply with requirements on the product label they are using.

“Use” is defined as any of the following:

- Handling, transporting, or storing opened containers.
- Mixing, loading or applying the product.
- Servicing and cleaning equipment.
- Handling and disposing of excess spray mix or rinsate.
- Handling unrinsed containers.
- Other handler tasks as defined by the Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

CERTIFIED APPLICATOR REQUIREMENT

The new label requires “use” (see definition above) by **certified applicators only** – not just under the supervision of a certified applicator.

SAFETY LABELING

Pesticide labels have additional safety information that also appears in Spanish, along with supplemental warning materials including:

- Cautionary sticker on the container cap.
- Safety sticker attached to the container.
- Counter card (issued at time of purchase).

TRAINING REQUIREMENT

At least every three years, certified applicators must complete the free paraquat training approved by EPA. Also, applicators must retain their certificates. You can find training on the EPA website by searching for “pesticide worker safety paraquat training.” The training site is also listed on the label under “Precautionary Statements – Certified Applicator Training.” The website and training module will be the same for all paraquat products and is currently in English.

Users should complete the training as soon as possible. Do not wait until required by label language. You won't need to have the certificate in your possession when purchasing the new-labeled paraquat product or when performing the application. However, WSDA will request proof-of-certification during an inspection or investigation.

EXISTING STOCKS

People other than the registrant can continue to sell and/or use old-product that has the previously approved labeling until those existing stocks are exhausted, if such use is consistent with the container labeling. However, if old-labeled paraquat is tank mixed with new-labeled paraquat, you must abide by the new-label restrictions.

NEW PESTICIDE LABELING

The label will contain all the supplemental warning materials, as well as the certified applicator requirement and training requirement.

CLOSED-SYSTEM REQUIREMENT FOR NON-BULK CONTAINERS

(Expected November 2020 or possibly later)

EPA has mandated that all non-bulk (less than 120-gallon) containers must meet closed-system requirements. The product must only be removed from the original container with a closed-transfer system. Any subsequent transfer of the product must use a closed-transfer system.

Any attempt to circumvent the closed-transfer system is prohibited. Any attempt to circumvent the closed-transfer system before the product is completely removed and product container is rinsed, as described in the “Storage and Disposal Section” of this label, is prohibited. Containers with capacities greater than or equal to 120 gallons are not subject to the closed-system requirement. Bulk product is not subject to the closed-system requirement.

ACCESSING ONLINE PARAQUAT TRAINING

“eXtension Online Campus” administers the paraquat-label online training. To access the training, Online Campus requires the user to have access to internet and to have a valid email account.

Growers or farmworkers who lack access can use either their employer’s computer or perhaps a public library computer. In either case, the employer can use an existing email address or create a new master address. Each user will append their name or another unique identifier to the master email address with the “+” sign, as described below. The eXtension online system will recognize the emails as unique addresses.

With the master email account LastName@gmail.com, the unique emails for employees John and Bill would be LastName+John@gmail.com and LastName+Bill@gmail.com. When training is complete, the certificate will be emailed as a PDF to the master email account. If accessible, the user can print the certificate upon course completion.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY USE OF PARAQUAT?

- Anyone who opens the container, handles an opened container, mixes, loads, handles rinsate, rinses containers, cleans or services contaminated equipment / sprayers, cleans up spills, and/or performs the application will have to be a properly licensed applicator. A pesticide handler (which includes the applicator), as defined in the Worker Protection Standard, will need to be a licensed “certified” applicator when involved with the use of paraquat.
- All certified applicators must take the online training and have the certificate on file before they do any of the “use” activities as listed above.

If you have questions, contact the WSDA Compliance Program toll-free at 1-877-301-4555 or email compliance@agr.wa.gov.

Information courtesy of R. Hagadine, Source Dynamics, LLC