

Region 2
State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Conference Call
October 24, 2017

A Pre-SFIREG conference call was held on October 24, 2017 with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 and the Region 2 States and Territories (states). The Region 2 states on the call included New York, New Jersey, and the US Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico was unable to attend.

The following items were discussed during this call:

Worker Protection Standard Regulation Update

Nancy Fitz, USEPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, provided an update on the implementation of the Worker Protection Standard regulations. Certain provisions of the regulations went into effect in early 2017 while others will go into effect in 2018. The safety training requirements of the 2018 components of the regulation did not meet the regulatory deadline for the development and notice of these training material. The implementation of this aspect of the regulation will be postponed until the materials are complete and notice has been provided. It is anticipated that the other aspects of the 2018 components of this regulation will go into effect as required, unless the regulation implementation date is postponed to accommodate the request by NASDA to USEPA.

Nancy also provided an update on the development of WPS materials by the Pesticide Educational Resource Collaborative. They are working on several educational components associated with the WPS regulation and have recently completed the revised Pesticide Safety Information Poster and the Respirator Protection Guide.

Federal Certification and Training Regulation Update

Nancy Fitz, USEPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, spoke about the Certification and Training regulation. The implementation date of this regulation has been postponed until May 22, 2018. There have been no additional changes to the regulation, but a lawsuit has been filed associated with the change in the implementation date of the regulation. This lawsuit focuses on the procedures used to postpone the implementation date and not the content of the regulation. If there are any additional amendments to the regulations USEPA will notify the states.

Following the implementation date of this regulation the states will have three years to revise their certification plans to meet the requirements of the amended regulation.

CPARD Update

Nancy Fitz, USEPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, provided information on the development of the updated CPARD system. A new contractor has been brought in to complete the update of this system. A major repair will be needed prior to this update being available for the states to use. It is unknown how long this repair will take, but when the system is available the states and tribes will have 6-9 months to input the current and past data into the system.

Pesticide Operations & Management (POM) working committee highlights

Stephanie Tougas, USEPA, Region 2 Pesticide Team, provided an overview of the topics that the SFIREG POM working committee is evaluating. Information was provided on the following topics: USEPA's Endangered Species Act evaluations associated with three neonicotinoids, USEPA's evaluation of Chlorpyrifos, Ozone generators as registered devices and the need for certification, USEPA's current position on the use of pesticides for cannabis production, Pollinator protection plan metrics, and the registration and use of Dicamba.