

# Worker Protection Standard

## The Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)



Department of Consumer  
and Business Services

Oregon OSHA has rules requiring that employers protect people when pesticides are applied. That's why an Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) must be established around the spray equipment. This protective zone moves with the equipment and may extend outside the crop area being treated. Only trained and equipped handlers can be in an AEZ during a spray application.

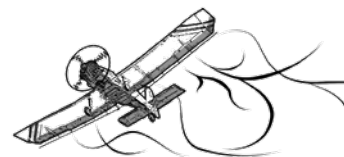
### The size of the AEZ is determined by two things:

- ➔ Type of **equipment** used
- ➔ Type of **pesticide** being applied

### Aerial or air blast application equipment



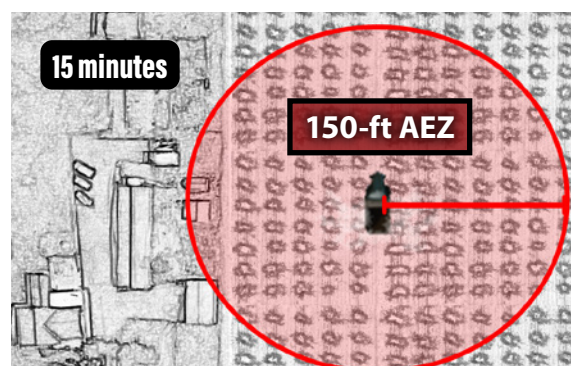
The AEZ must extend out from the equipment in a circle either 150 feet or 100 feet – with the equipment itself as the center point of the zone as it moves.



### Respirator required



When the pesticide label requires the applicator to use a respirator, you must establish a **150-foot AEZ**. Anyone within the AEZ – including people in buildings on the agricultural establishment – must evacuate the zone until 15 minutes after the last pass of the equipment.



↑ Crop area ↑

**Everyone must stay out of treated crop areas until the pesticide label allows people to go back in.**

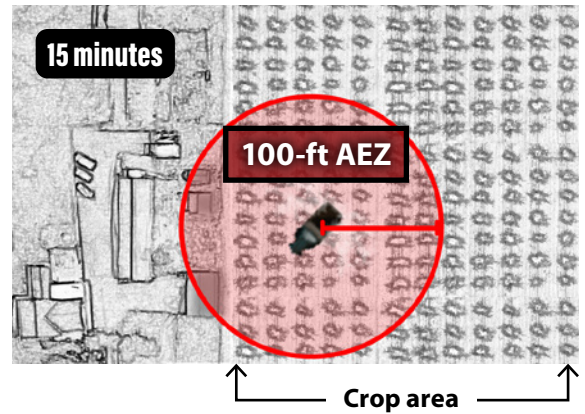
These are general guidelines. Remember, with pesticides “the label is the law.”

**If the label is more protective, you must follow the requirements on the label.**

## No respirator required



When the pesticide label does not require the use of a respirator for the applicator, you must establish a **100-foot AEZ**. Anyone within the AEZ must either evacuate or shelter in place until 15 minutes after the last pass of the equipment.



**Everyone must stay out of treated crop areas until the pesticide label allows people to go back in.**



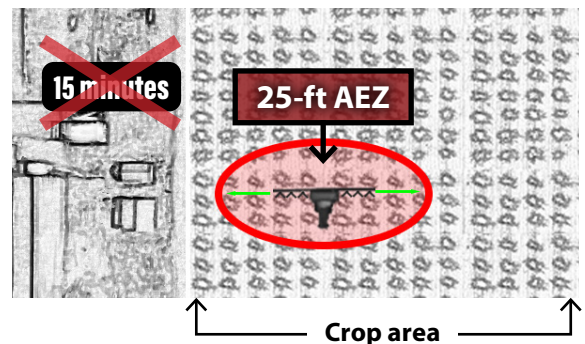
**In many cases, the application equipment makes more than one pass.** For example, if a handler applies pesticides in one row and then turns around and comes back down another row and the application zone is still within 150 feet of a structure, the **15-minute timeframe required begins after the final pass.**

## Other application equipment

If you are applying pesticides with equipment other than aerial or air blast and the pesticide is applied more than 12 inches from the crop or ground, a **25-foot AEZ** must be established (measured from the spray nozzles). There is no waiting period to go back into the zone once the application equipment passes.

**Everyone must stay out of treated crop areas until the pesticide label allows people to go back in.**

If other equipment is used, and the pesticide is applied 12 inches or less from the surface being sprayed, you do not need an AEZ.



### More information

- For further details, consult Oregon OSHA's rules: [osha.oregon.gov/OSHArules/div4/div4W.pdf](https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHArules/div4/div4W.pdf)
- Oregon OSHA's AEZ video: [youtu.be/DsJiIRmIVcg](https://youtu.be/DsJiIRmIVcg)



AEZ video