



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

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August 2, 2007

Kirk Lloyd, Risk Management Consultant  
Risk Management Resources, Inc.  
8032 Liberty RD. South  
Salem, OR 97306

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

This letter is in response to your April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 email asking for clarification regarding eyewash requirements triggered by signal words on pesticide labels and *MSDS for eyewash provisions*.

When the pesticide label uses the words danger or danger-poison and the pesticide is used in concentrated forms such as loading and mixing activities, eyewash facilities are required. These signal words mean that the pesticide is highly toxic. Danger means the pesticide causes irreversible damage to the skin or eyes. Caution means that the product is slightly toxic and causes slight eye or skin irritation. Care should be taken to follow all directions on the label every time a pesticide product is used. The following links provide additional information.

National Pesticide Information Center Pesticide Fact Sheets - NPIC

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/signalwords.pdf>

EPA: Pesticides: Regulating Pesticides;

<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/labeling/lrm/chap-07.htm>

Subdivision W, [Worker Protection Standard](#), §170.250 *Decontamination*, note states: OAR 437-004-1305(5)(b), (d), and (e) applies for all mixing or loading work for chemicals whose key alert word on the product label is danger or danger-poison.

Subdivision K, Medical/First Aid, [OAR 437-004-1305\(5\) Emergency eyewash and shower facilities](#), requires eyewashes where the pesticide label specifies an emergency eyewash be provided when handling the pesticide concentrate, as in mixing and loading activities.

The intent of OAR 437-004-1305(5) is for eyewash to be present when a pesticide is used in concentrated form with the potential for irreversible eye damage. The pesticide label will state that the product is capable of irreversible eye damage and that first aid measures require the eyes to be flushed for 15 minutes and contain the alert words: danger or danger-poison.

It is allowable for mobile work sites and sites without plumbed water to use self-contained systems. These systems must provide clean, fresh water at flow rates adequate to provide complete decontamination of the eyes or body. The manufacturer's instructions must be followed for use and inspection. Personal eye flush equipment, such as the quart or similar-size squeeze bottles, may be used to supplement emergency washing facilities; however, they cannot be used as the sole means of protection or as a substitute for plumbed or self-contained equipment when the hazard involves irreversible eye damage. Policy guidance on eyewash and safety showers is located in program directive [A-63, Eyewash and Safety Showers](#).

A related rule dealing with chemical exposure is found in Subdivision Z, Chemicals/Toxins, [OAR 437-004-9800 Hazard Communication](#), which requires employers to keep MSDS, inform employees where they are kept, train employees on the hazards and measures employees can take to protect themselves from these hazard. These measures include specific procedures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment.

In summary, the employer must rely most heavily on the product label to assess the hazards that could cause irreversible eye or skin damage and to provide the appropriate eyewash or shower facilities. In some cases the information on the MSDS and from other sources like the EPA and National Pesticide Information Center will also play a key role in this determination. In any case the employer must take the most protective path, so if one source requires more protection than the other sources, protect to the higher level.

For further information contact us at (503)-378-3272. You're invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy A. Munsell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peggy Munsell, Manager  
Standards & Technical Resources  
Oregon Occupations Safety and Health Division