

## **Laws and Regulations Jeopardy**

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While many pesticides being used and developed today are safer than ever to use, pesticides must nevertheless be applied according to the laws and regulations of the California Food and Agricultural Code and California Code of Regulations. Compliance with the regulations protects not only the applicator, customer, and the environment, but also protects the pest control company, farmer, and any pesticide user from potential lawsuits by the public, by disgruntled employees, and from enforcement actions by the local agricultural commissioner, because non-compliance immediately places the employer and employee in an untenable position.

Employers must properly train their employees and provide them with appropriate safety gear. Employers should make it easy for their employees to comply by providing properly maintained and comfortable safety gear, treating their employees fairly, and stressing the importance of professionalism in their work ethic by being professional in their own attention to compliance with the regulations.

The regulations promote professionalism and responsible application by licensed and certified application companies. Documentation of compliance through licensing, training records, written safety programs, and pesticide use reports is mandated by the regulations.

The county agricultural commissioners and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation would prefer to catch you applying pesticides properly rather than forcing you to correct your procedures with disciplinary enforcement.

The laws, as promulgated by the state legislature, governing pesticide applications in California are contained in the California Food and Agriculture Code; primarily in Division 6. Pest Control Operations with some laws contained in Division 2. Local Administration; Division 7. Agricultural Chemicals, Livestock Remedies, and Commercial Feeds; and Division 13. Bee Management and Honey Production. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the agricultural commissioners further govern pesticide application by also enforcing Title 3. Food and Agriculture, Division 6. Pesticides and Pest Control Operations of the California Code of Regulations; and Division 3. Professions and Vocations Generally, of the California Business and Profession Code as enacted by the Structural Pest Control Act.

Pesticide Laws and Regulations Jeopardy emulates the Jeopardy television game show, and was developed as an engaging way to present the sometimes mundane details of the laws and regulations. Rather than attempt a summary of the proceedings, here, it is perhaps more useful to direct the audience to these three internet websites for more information:

- California Food and Agriculture Code:  
[www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=fac&codebody=&hits=20](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=fac&codebody=&hits=20)
- California Code of Regulations:  
[www.calregs.com/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=CCR-1000&Action=Welcome](http://www.calregs.com/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=CCR-1000&Action=Welcome)
- California Department of Pesticide Regulation – Laws and Legislation:  
[www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/opramenu.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/opramenu.htm)