

**Department of Transportation**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**ORDER**

DOT 5600.1

3-10-78

**SUBJECT: PESTICIDE APPLICATION AT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

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1. PURPOSE. This Order establishes the Department of Transportation (DOT) policy for application of "general use" and "restricted use" pesticides at DOT facilities.
2. BACKGROUND.
  - a. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to classify pesticides as being for general use or for restricted use. If the Administrator of EPA determines that a pesticide; when applied in accordance with its directions for use, warnings, and cautions, or in accordance with widespread commonly recognized practice; will not cause unreasonably adverse effects on the environment; he will classify the pesticide for "general use." If the EPA Administrator determines that a pesticide; when applied in accordance with its directions for use, warning, and cautions, or in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized practice; may cause unreasonably adverse effects on the environment, including injury to the applicator, he shall classify the pesticide for "restricted use." FIFRA also requires that, after 10-21-77, all restricted use pesticides shall be applied only by or under direct supervision of a certified applicator.
  - b. The Federal Regulations on certification of pesticide applicators (40 CFR 171) require Federal agencies which desire to certify applicators to submit a Federal Agency Plan (FAP) of certification to EPA for approval. The FAP approval, in part, will require the agency to employ qualified personnel as necessary to carry out the plan. This will require personnel with specific skills, job titles and job functions up through the organizational structure to several levels above the

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certified applicators. In addition to fulfilling all the EPA requirements, the Federal agencies which certify applicators will have to fulfill the substantive requirements of the plan of each state in which restricted use pesticides are applied.

### 3. POLICY.

- a. When pest control by biological methods and other pest prevention measures fail to accomplish control, or become economically unfeasible, and application of chemical pesticide becomes necessary, it shall be the policy of the Department of Transportation to emphasize application of general use pesticides rather than restricted use pesticides.
- b. Training of general use pesticide applicators is advocated. The applicators of general use pesticides or their direct (on-site) supervisors should have current training to assure that their practical knowledge includes the ability to:
  - (1) Recognize common pests to be controlled and damage caused by them.
  - (2) Read and understand the label and labeling information including the information on: the common name of pesticides they apply, pest(s) to be controlled, timing and methods of application, safety precautions, and any specific disposal procedures.
  - (3) Apply pesticides in accordance with label instructions and warnings, including the ability to prepare the proper concentration of pesticide to be used under particular circumstances, taking into account such factors as: area to be covered, speed at which application equipment will be driven, and the quantity dispersed in a given period of operation.
  - (4) Recognize local environmental situations that must be considered during application to avoid contamination.
  - (5) Recognize poisoning symptoms and understand procedures to follow in case of a pesticide accident.

c. In-house certification of DOT employees as applicators of restricted use pesticides is not advocated because the requirements for approval of a FAP, including certification authority, will, in most cases, make in-house certification uneconomical. If application of restricted use pesticide becomes necessary the following options should be considered:

- (1) Contract with commercial applicators of pesticides who are certified by the state in which the pesticide is applied.
- (2) Have DOT employees certified by the state in which the pesticide is applied.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION:



Robert L. Fairman  
For the Assistant Secretary  
for Administration