

Understanding the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) Requirements

“Application Exclusion Zone” or AEZ

The “Application Exclusion Zone” or AEZ is a new term used in the WPS refers to the area surrounding the pesticide application equipment that must be free of all persons other than appropriately trained and equipped handlers during pesticide applications.

The AEZ is measured from the application equipment. The AEZ also moves with the application equipment like a halo around the application equipment.

The size of an AEZ varies depending on the type of application and other factors, including droplet size, and height of nozzles above the planting medium.

- ❖ The AEZ is 100 feet for aerial, air blast, fumigant, smoke, mist and fog applications, as well as spray applications using very fine or fine droplet sizes (a volume median droplet diameter (VMD) size of less than 294 microns)
- ❖ An AEZ of 25 feet is required when the pesticide is sprayed using droplet sizes of medium or larger and from more than 12 inches above the plant medium. An application that does not fall into one of these categories does not require an AEZ.

The requirement for the agricultural employer to keep persons out of the AEZ only applies within the boundaries of the establishment because the agricultural employer **cannot be expected** to control persons off the establishment.

Agricultural employer’s responsibilities related to the pesticide applications and the new AEZ requirements:

The agricultural employer has two responsibilities related to the pesticide applications and the new AEZ requirements:

- ❖ During any WPS-covered pesticide application, the agricultural employer must keep workers and all other persons (other than appropriately trained and equipped handlers involved in the application) out of the treated area and the AEZ within the boundary of the agricultural establishment. This includes people occupying migrant labor camps or other housing or buildings that are located on the agricultural establishment.
- ❖ The agricultural employer may not allow a pesticide to be applied while any worker or other person on the establishment is in the treated area or within the AEZ.