

Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)

Description, Determination, Suspending Applications

Changes to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard

Updates made to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) in 2015 are meant to protect workers and other people from pesticide exposure. One new addition is the [application exclusion zone](#) (AEZ) in [outdoor production](#). Outdoor production includes farms, vineyards, forests, and nurseries.

The AEZ is an additional requirement, separate from the [restricted entry interval](#) (REI) already required by pesticide labels. The AEZ requirements only apply during applications and the REI requirements are applicable after applications.

Introduction to the Application Exclusion Zone

The AEZ is an area surrounding pesticide application equipment that people should not enter during pesticide applications. Equipment can include aircraft, tractors, backpack sprayers, etc. [Agricultural employers](#) must keep workers and other people out of this zone within the boundaries of the [agricultural establishment](#) after the application begins.



The AEZ is measured as a horizontal straight line from the application. It moves with the equipment and surrounds the application equipment in all directions, like a halo. If the equipment moves, the AEZ moves as well.

The AEZ does not apply to indoor, [enclosed space production](#). Applications in enclosed spaces have their own [entry restrictions](#). See [Chapter 3](#) of the How To Comply manual. Enclosed space production includes agricultural plants maintained in greenhouses, mushroom houses, hoop-houses, poly-houses and any indoor grow houses.

Application types and AEZ distances

The size of the AEZ changes depending on the application type. Use the table below to determine how far workers and other people must stay from the application.

Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) distances based on application type:

Application Type	AEZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aircraft• Air blast• Fumigant• Mist• Fog, or• Spray with fine, very fine or extra fine droplet size	100 feet in all directions
Spray from more than one foot off the ground (or planting medium) and with medium or larger droplet size	25 feet in all directions
All other application types	No AEZ required

Keeping Unprotected People Out of the AEZ

Employers must keep workers and other persons out of the AEZ and treated areas during pesticide applications. Employers can do this by complying with the notification requirements, which will ensure workers know of all applications-in-progress, and entry restrictions that apply to their activities. In addition, employers should schedule worker tasks to ensure they are well away from pesticide applications, and ensure good communication between the supervisors of applicators and the supervisors of workers.

Suspending a Pesticide Application

Applicators must suspend any application if anyone enters the AEZ, other than a trained and equipped handler(s) involved with the application.

- Applicators may only resume an application if they can ensure the pesticide will not contact anyone, on or off the establishment, directly or through drift.
- Within the boundary of the establishment, the application cannot resume until all everyone is out of the AEZ except trained, equipped handlers involved in the application.

Responsibilities for agricultural employers



Agricultural employers must not allow workers or other people to enter or be in the **AEZ** during an application. This includes housing within the boundaries of the property. For this requirement, the AEZ is limited to being on the establishment. This requirement went into effect on January 2, 2017.

Responsibilities for handlers

Handlers cannot begin an application if anyone is inside the AEZ within the boundaries of the agricultural establishment. If anyone enters the AEZ during the application, **on or off the establishment**, handlers must suspend the application.

If people are in the AEZ **within** the boundaries of the establishment, the handler cannot resume an application until they move. If people are in the AEZ **outside** the boundaries of the establishment, the handler can only resume if the handler can ensure the pesticide will not contact those people.

A pesticide may not contact people directly or through drift.

Effective dates for AEZ requirements

If you are an agricultural employer, the AEZ requirement began on **January 2, 2017**. Employers must keep all workers and people out of the AEZ on their agricultural property.

If you are a handler, you should work with the agricultural employer to help them comply with their requirement to keep workers and other people out of the AEZ on the property. After **January 2, 2018**, handlers must suspend applications as soon as workers or other people enter the AEZ. This applies to areas on- or off-property. EPA will provide more guidance on AEZs in 2018.



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The Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)

What is the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)?



The AEZ is a restricted area around pesticide equipment during an application. The AEZ moves as the application continues. The agricultural employer must keep workers and other people out of the AEZ during applications. Agricultural employers must also keep workers out of treated areas until the restricted entry interval (REI) has passed.

How large is this zone?

Workers must be kept at least 100 feet away from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft or air blast sprayers • Fumigant, mist, or fog applications • Spray with extra fine, very fine or fine droplets 	100 feet
Workers must stay at least 25 feet away from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray with medium droplets (or larger) when the application is made more than one foot above the ground 	25 feet
All other application types have no AEZ	No AEZ



Ask your employer about restricted zones and droplet size before your shift



January 2, 2017

Agricultural employers must keep workers and others out of the AEZ during an application on the employer's property.

January 2, 2018

Handlers must suspend applications when any workers or persons are in the AEZ, on or off property.

? How far is 100 feet?

About seven cars



About two and a half buses

