

CUT ROSE EARLY ENTRY EXEMPTION

The following memo was sent to members of Roses Inc. It announces and summarizes the EPA exemption for cut rose growers on the WPS legislation. A copy of the full notice from the Federal Register is on file at the university.

MEMO

TO: U.S. Growers, Plant Producers and Chemical Co. Members

FROM: James C. Krone, Executive Vice President, Roses Inc.

RE: ROSE EXCEPTION - EPA WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

THE ROSE EARLY ENTRY EXEMPTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY EPA!

On Wednesday, April 20, 1994, EPA held a special public meeting in Washington, D.C., to brief us on their decision to grant an exception to their new Worker Protection Standards which would allow workers early entry into pesticide treated areas for harvesting roses! There should be an official announcement on this decision in the Federal Register in about two weeks. EPA regional offices are being notified of the decision yet this week. Arrangements will also be made to inform appropriate state agencies. Roses Inc. will be providing members with copies of the official notice as soon as we have it so you will be able to prove it exists to any local or state agencies who may not have gotten the word.

THE EXCEPTION APPLIES TO ROSES ONLY! Other greenhouse growers seem to feel they could meet the new rules without an exception, so they expressed little interest in the original proposed cut flower and fern exception. Thus, as only Roses Inc. pursued the exception, it has been issued for roses only.

To utilize the exception, there are some requirements as you might expect! Please keep in mind that many of these requirements are the same as included in the basic regulation that you will have to comply with after January 1, 1995. Thus, in the case of the rose grower using the exception process, these have only been moved ahead a bit, but we think the tradeoff to be able to harvest after a pesticide application is well worth it.

Here's a partial list of important points:

1. You will be required to put up a special poster that informs your workers that you are taking advantage of this exception. (As soon as we have the official wording, we will get the poster made up and in your hands.)
2. When making an application of a restricted use pesticide (RUP) with the new Restricted Entry Interval (REI) on the label, no entry will be allowed for four (4) hours after the completion of the pesticide application and until after required ventilation has taken place. (See pages 53 & 54 of the EPA "How To Comply" manual.) This is the same as it is in the basic rule and will appear on the new pesticide labels. If you're making an application of a pesticide with an old label, you need only comply with the instruction on that particular label.
3. After the four (4) hours and ventilation is completed, you may have your workers enter the treated area for the purposes of harvesting roses **IF YOU COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:**
 - A. Provide your workers with EPA-approved WORKER training. (We suggest you review pages 59-69 of the EPA "How To Comply" manual for further information.) Please note that it is "worker" not "handler" training that is needed*. EPA has general agriculture "worker" training materials available that you can use and Roses Inc. is putting together a member packet for you to use in your training program. Some of this material is being converted to greenhouse specific videos and handbooks that will be easier for your employees to relate to the greenhouse environment. However, as these will not be available for several months, we are planning to provide you with general agriculture materials in the interim.

When making an application of a restricted use pesticide (RUP) with the new Restricted Entry Interval (REI) on the label, no entry will be allowed for four (4) hours after the completion of the pesticide application and until after required ventilation has taken place.

After the four (4) hours and ventilation is completed, you may have your workers enter the treated area for the purposes of harvesting roses.

B. You will need to provide required decontamination sites to include eye wash facilities. For most greenhouses where you already have running water, this should not represent a problem, but care must be taken that the water supplied is clean and not a part of your fertilizer irrigation program. Please see page 67 of the EPA "How To Comply" manual for more information *.

C. Workers who enter early for harvesting will be limited to a maximum of three (3) hours in any 24-hour period in the early entry environment. (Roses Inc. is working with EPA to expand this limit to a longer period just prior to your key rose holidays, but for the present, you need to observe this requirement.)

D. Information must be given workers about the pesticide used in the application. In other words, the label information must be available. Posting of the treated area must also be accomplished. It would seem that as you will be required to have the central notification bulletin board set up as required by the regulations by Jan. 1, 1995, you might just as well go ahead and set it up now. This would certainly cover your immediate needs for the exception and give you a jump on the 1995 deadline. Members have already been sent the official EPA safety poster, which should also be posted in your central notification area.

E. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as required on the pesticide label, must be provided, cleaned and maintained for the early entry harvest worker, to include the use of a chemical resistant glove or leather glove worn with a chemical resistant liner under it. (See page 69 of the EPA "How To Comply" manual.)

As we understand it, the PPE will be primarily coveralls, probably of a light weight cotton, plus appropriate footwear/headware, etc. as covered on the pesticide label. If a Class I material has been applied, the worker will need to wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants under the coveralls. In the case of a Class II or III application, a short sleeve shirt and short pants would be permitted. In general,

you, as the employer, will need to provide washing facilities for the coveralls, which you should not allow your workers to take or wear home. Clothing worn by your employees under the coveralls would be the employee's responsibility to provide and clean.

This probably will mean you need to provide a washing machine at the greenhouse. (maybe now is the time to buy the family a new one and bring your old one to the greenhouse.)

F. You must have a plan to prevent heat stress of handlers and workers wearing PPE. Roses Inc. is making arrangements to obtain for your copies of the EPA Heat Stress Guide.

4. THE EXCEPTION WILL RUN FOR TWO (2) YEARS. In general, EPA does not anticipate that any of the exceptions they may grant will run for much longer. On this first two-year period, the rose industry will be asked to provide some data to the Agency on how well the exception is working and some very modest exposure information. Roses Inc. will be creating a work group to meet with EPA as the data requirements are set up and to coordinate this work to satisfy their requirements.

More detail will be provided on the rose exception as information is made available to us. In the meantime, we thought you would want to know that the exception has been approved and some of the guidelines that you will be expected to follow if you elect to have your workers enter early for rose harvesting.

We are indeed pleased that your Association's efforts have paid off in bringing the industry this most important consideration by EPA. This is another good example of your dues money in action. Please let the nonmembers in your area know that, if they want to be kept up to date on this new ruling and if they want to help you cover the costs that are involved to do these programs, they should join the Association at once!

* Many of the things you are being asked to do as you participate in the rose early entry for harvest program are the same as will be required in the basic regulation when it takes effect January 1, 1995.

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Many of the things you are being asked to do as you participate in the rose early entry for harvest program are the same as will be required in the basic regulation when it takes effect January 1, 1995.