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Policy Statement 03-0521

Direct Supervision of Tender Truck Drivers

I. Introduction

The amended Direct Supervision Rule (355 IAC 4-2) became effective January 1, 2002. One of the main changes to the rule, mandated that all for hire and restricted use pesticide applications be made only by certified pesticide applicators or registered technicians (RT) working under the direct supervision of a certified supervisor. This requirement provokes some interesting questions about who needs to be supervised because of the agriculture industry's use of tender truck drivers. If these typically non-certified drivers as a part of their employment, mix or load pesticides, then they must be supervised by a certified pesticide applicator.

II. Options for Supervision of Tender Truck Drivers

Supervision may be provided by either of the following two methods:

1. If the tender truck driver is a registered technician, then the customer direct supervision rules apply. The supervising certified applicator must provide the technician with all of the following:
 - a. Labels of the product(s) being used;
 - b. Label required personal protective equipment;
 - c. A site assessment fact sheet; AND
 - d. Instructions and the means to establish direct voice communication with the supervisor.
2. If the truck driver is neither a certified applicator nor a registered technician, then a certified supervisor must provide continuous on-site supervision while pesticides are in "use". Remember the definition of "use" is not limited to pesticide applications, but also includes pesticide mixing and loading.

In option two (2) above, continuous on-site supervision would be provided if a certified supervisor was present at the ag facility (where mixing and loading typically occurs) and was also present in the field (where unloading typically occurs).

III. When is No Supervision Required?

If the tender truck driver does not mix, load, unload or apply pesticides, but acts only to shuttle product between the ag facility and the field, then no direct supervision is required.