

Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner

Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Registration

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) [[3CCR 6738.4](#)]

Pilots are exempt from some PPE requirements while operating an aircraft.

- A helmet may be worn instead of chemical-resistant headgear.
- A helmet with the face shield lowered to cover the face may be worn instead of protective eyewear.
- Work clothing may be worn instead of personal protective equipment, including when required by pesticide product labeling, when occupying an enclosed aircraft cockpit (aircraft must have enclosed doors to qualify). Additionally, filtering facepiece respirators and dust mist respirators are not required to be worn if the enclosed aircraft has a properly functioning air ventilation system.

Pesticide Drift [[FAC 12972](#), [FAC 12973](#), [3CCR 6614](#), and [3CCR 6600](#)]

Unfortunately, many of our Enforcement Responses against pilots are involve drift incidents or complaints of drift. To minimize drift, please keep the following in mind:

- Follow label instructions regarding drift and buffers.
- Consider increasing buffers as needed (sensitive sites in the vicinity, weather, etc.).
- Ensure that weather conditions are favorable to prevent drift throughout the entire application.
- Monitor the treatment area throughout the entire application for bystanders or other persons in or entering the area.
- If bystanders are found in the area, discontinue application until ground staff confirm that they have left the vicinity.

Mitigation Measures [[FAC 12973](#)]

Site conditions are binding on all applications of restricted materials. Each map must have a general mitigation statement that must specifically include impacted areas shown on the map (roadways, waterways, houses, etc.). Additional site conditions may be required using the following guidelines:

1. Areas adjacent to highly populated areas such as cities, towns, industrial areas or "residential areas" (three or more contiguous dwellings) on more than one side of the field:
 - **Ground Application Only**
2. Field within 1/8 mile of residential area, school, occupied industrial areas, or international border:
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, Folex, or Paraquat as cotton harvest aid**
3. Field within 1/4 mile of residential area, school, occupied industrial areas, or international border:
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, or Folex**
4. Field within 1/2 mile of residential area, school, occupied industrial areas, or international border:
 - **No Def or Folex**
5. Schools (use one or more of these conditions depending on distance to school/daycare):
 - **No aerial applications within 1 mile of school or daycare grounds when school or daycare is in session or when school or daycare grounds are occupied.**
 - **No ground applications within 1/2 mile of school or daycare grounds when school or daycare is in session or when school or daycare grounds are occupied.**
 - **No aerial applications within 1/4 mile of school or daycare grounds within 12 hours prior to when the school or daycare will be in session.**

Note: Additional regulations for pesticide use near schools include non-restricted applications and place restrictions on applications from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. [[3CCR 6691](#)]

6. Fields adjacent to the international border with residential areas in Mexico:
 - **Ground only**
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, Folex, or Paraquat as cotton harvest aid**
 - **No drift toward international border or All-American canal**

7. Fields adjacent to the international border without a nearby residential areas in Mexico (all will apply):
 - **Fly east/west only; Do not fly over All-American canal or international border**
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, Folex, or Paraquat as cotton harvest aid**
 - **No drift toward international border or All-American canal**