

Paraquat Stewardship

Q&A for California

Paraquat has played a vital role in herbicide resistance management programs for more than 50 years, and Syngenta is committed to maintaining the availability of Gramoxone® brand herbicides and other paraquat-containing products. As part of the paraquat registration review process, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published new requirements for paraquat products in December 2016. Syngenta is complying with the new EPA guidelines and is proactively involved in training product users about the guidelines. When used according to label directions, paraquat is a safe and effective tool, and Syngenta is dedicated to continuing the education of pesticide applicators regarding safe paraquat practices.

What changes did EPA mandate?

EPA mandated the following mitigation measures to allow for the continued use of paraquat:

- Label changes emphasizing paraquat toxicity, restrictions and safe handling
- Supplemental warning materials
- A paraquat-specific certification requirement, in addition to the state-required certification to apply restricted use products
- Restricting use of all paraquat products to certified applicators only
- Closed-system packaging for all non-bulk (less than 120 gallons) end-use product containers

Label Changes and Supplemental Warning Materials

How will paraquat product labels change?

Paraquat product labels will include new warning boxes in both English and Spanish, as well as a revised restricted use statement and a section on paraquat-specific applicator training.

When will label changes go into effect?

The label changes must be completed by November 14, 2019, at the latest. Some paraquat registrants will have product with the new label requirements in the market before that date.

What are the supplemental warning materials?

The containers of paraquat products will be required to include several supplemental warnings. These include a sticker with a “one sip can kill” warning affixed near the dispensing valve and a product package safety requirements sticker affixed to the container. A “counter card” reiterating this same information will be distributed with the product. All of the supplemental warning materials will be in English, Spanish and pictogram format.

Training Requirements

What changes are being made to who can use paraquat?

Two certifications will be required in order to use paraquat products:

1. A certified pesticide applicator's license/permit from your state or tribal authority (see certified applicator information below)
2. A paraquat-specific training certificate in your name, obtained via online training at www.usparaquattraining.com, currently hosted by the National Pesticide Safety Education Center (NPSEC).

How is paraquat use defined?

"Use" includes pre-application activities involving mixing and loading paraquat. Use also includes applying paraquat, transporting or storing opened containers, cleaning equipment, and disposing of excess product, spray mix, equipment wash waters, empty pesticide containers and other paraquat-containing materials.

Different states and tribes have different requirements for becoming a certified pesticide applicator. Contact your state or tribal authorities for more information on these requirements.

Non-certified applicators will no longer be allowed to use (see "use" definition above) paraquat, even under the supervision of certified applicators.

What is a certified applicator in California, and how do I become a certified applicator?

There are three main types of applicator certifications in California: Qualified Applicator License (QAL), Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) and Private Applicator Certification (PAC).

The PAC is for applicators who, according to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation "use or supervise the use of a pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity on property owned, leased, or rented by him/her or his/her employer." https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/compend/vol_3/chap4.pdf

The PAC is offered, in English and Spanish, through your County Agricultural Commissioner. Please contact your local Ag Commissioner to determine whether the PAC is the appropriate certification. Information on how to contact your County Agricultural Commissioner is available here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>

Those who don't meet the description of a private applicator are commercial applicators and must have either a QAL or QAC. The QAL and QAC exams are offered, in English, directly through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Information on applying for a 2019 exam date can be found here: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/exam_sched.pdf

Will paraquat training be available in Spanish?

A Spanish version of the training is currently in development; however, the English version hosted by NPSEC is the only approved training available at this time.

How will records of pesticide certification and paraquat training be kept?

Records for pesticide applicator's licenses and permits will continue to be maintained by your state or tribal authority. Paraquat-specific training (obtained at www.usparaquattraining.com) will be maintained by NPSEC and also by the individual taking the test, who will receive the certificate of completion. When requested, NPSEC will provide paraquat certificate information to state or tribal authorities. An electronic or paper copy of the certificate of completion should be retained by the end-user.

Will paraquat users be required to present their paraquat training certificate in order to purchase paraquat products?

No, paraquat users will only need to present the certified pesticide applicator's license/permit issued by their state or tribe in order to purchase paraquat products.

When do paraquat users need to be certified applicators and have completed the paraquat-specific training?

Paraquat users need to be certified applicators and complete the paraquat-specific training before using any paraquat product with the indicated new label requirements.

If an applicator has a paraquat package with the “old” label, do they need to follow the new label rules regarding applicator certifications?

Applicants must follow the directions on the label of the package they are using. However, Syngenta encourages applicators to take the paraquat-specific training as soon as possible.

Packaging Changes

What changes are coming to paraquat packaging?

All non-bulk (less than 120 gallons) paraquat products will be required to be sold in closed-system packaging that meets specific EPA guidelines. The closed-system packaging must have capability to transfer the paraquat to the application equipment through connecting hoses, pipes and/or couplings that are sufficiently tight to prevent exposure of the mixer or loader to the paraquat. Syngenta plans to develop how-to guides for applicators once packaging changes go into effect for Syngenta paraquat products.

When will the closed-system packaging go into effect?

The closed-system packaging will not be required until 12 months after EPA stamps labels with the requirement. The requirement is expected to go into effect during the fall of 2020.

Will backpack sprayers and other handheld application equipment be acceptable under the new standards?

Yes, as long as they meet closed-system requirements and contain indicator dye to help early detection of leaks and spills.

Formulation Changes

Is Syngenta planning any changes to its Gramoxone formulation?

Yes, registration of a new product, Gramoxone SL 3.0, has recently received EPA approval.

How will Syngenta transition from Gramoxone SL 2.0 to Gramoxone SL 3.0?

Materials are currently in development to detail the transition process from Gramoxone® SL 2.0 to Gramoxone® SL 3.0. Syngenta will notify field representatives when materials become available.

Additional Information

Do the new requirements apply to generic paraquat products?

Yes, these regulatory requirements apply to all paraquat-containing products.

Will existing Syngenta paraquat products need to be relabeled?

No, retailers will be allowed to sell the “old” labeled products until supplies are exhausted.

For more information on the 2016 Paraquat Dichloride Human Health and Mitigation Decision, please visit:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0112>

For more information on the 2018 Amendment to Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, please visit:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0119>

For more information on Syngenta's commitment to paraquat stewardship, contact your local Syngenta representative.



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