



# Pesticide Applicator

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## Practice Questions

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### 1. What does the abbreviation 'EC' stand for on a pesticide label?

- A. Emulsifiable Concentrate
- B. Encapsulated Chemical
- C. Effective Concentration
- D. Extended Coverage

### 2. What does the acronym FIFRA stand for?

- A. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
- B. Federal Insect, Fungus, and Rodent Regulation Act
- C. Federal Integrated Pest and Fungicide Registration Act
- D. Farm Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Administration

### 3. How many legs do adult insects have?

- A. 4
- B. 6 to 8
- C. 6
- D. 8

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### 4. Which body part do chemical-resistant gloves primarily protect when handling pesticide concentrates?

- A. Hands and wrists
- B. Eyes and face
- C. Lungs and airways
- D. Feet and ankles



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**5. When transporting pesticides, placards are required on vehicles carrying hazardous materials primarily to:**

- A. Warn emergency responders about the contents in case of an accident
- B. Increase the resale value of the vehicle
- C. Allow the driver to use HOV lanes
- D. Satisfy insurance requirements only

**6. Which formulation type is typically the safest for the applicator to handle because the active ingredient is enclosed in small capsules?**

- A. Emulsifiable concentrate (EC)
- B. Microencapsulated (ME or CS)
- C. Wettable powder (WP)
- D. Soluble concentrate (SL)

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**7. Which federal agency is primarily responsible for registering pesticides under FIFRA?**

- A. USDA (United States Department of Agriculture)
- B. FDA (Food and Drug Administration)
- C. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
- D. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)

**8. Which body region of an insect bears the wings and legs?**

- A. Thorax
- B. Abdomen
- C. Head
- D. Spiracles

**9. What does the label phrase 'wear protective eyewear' minimally require an applicator to use?**

- A. Safety glasses only
- B. Safety glasses, goggles, face shield, or other protective eyewear
- C. A full-face respirator
- D. A welding shield

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**10. Before transporting pesticides, you should inspect containers to ensure they are:**

- A. Opened slightly to relieve pressure
- B. Tightly sealed and free of leaks or damage
- C. Stored upright only if liquid
- D. Labeled only when transported across state lines

**11. A suspension concentrate (SC or F) formulation is most similar to which other formulation type?**

- A. Wettable powder (WP)
- B. Soluble powder (SP)
- C. Emulsifiable concentrate (EC)
- D. Ultra-low volume (ULV)

**12. Under FIFRA, using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling is:**

- A. Permitted if the applicator is certified
- B. A violation of federal law
- C. Allowed when the applicator judges it necessary
- D. Only restricted for general-use pesticides

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**13. What is the correct number of body segments in an adult arachnid (e.g., spider)?**

- A. 3
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 1

**14. When the pesticide label requires a 'long-sleeved shirt and long pants,' what is the PRIMARY purpose?**

- A. Keeping the applicator cool
- B. Preventing sunburn
- C. Reducing dermal pesticide exposure
- D. Meeting fashion standards for professional applicators



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**15. When transporting pesticides in a vehicle, they should be kept:**

- A. In the passenger compartment for easy access
- B. Directly adjacent to food or feed products
- C. Physically separated from food, feed, and people
- D. Covered only if they have a strong odor

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**16. Which formulation type produces the least mixer/loader exposure risk when preparing a spray tank?**

- A. Wettable powder (WP)
- B. Water-dispersible granule (WDG)
- C. Emulsifiable concentrate (EC)
- D. Soluble concentrate (SL)

**17. Which of the following is required to appear on every registered pesticide label?**

- A. The EPA registration number
- B. The manufacturer's phone number for orders
- C. A list of all states where the product is sold
- D. The price per unit

**18. Which insect mouthpart type is characteristic of piercing-sucking insects such as aphids?**

- A. Mandibulate (chewing)
- B. Rasping-sucking
- C. Sponging
- D. Stylet (beak)

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**19. Which type of footwear provides the best protection when mixing liquid pesticide concentrates?**

- A. Open-toe sandals
- B. Canvas sneakers
- C. Leather work boots
- D. Chemical-resistant boots or rubber boots



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**20. Which item should always be carried in a vehicle used to transport pesticides in case of a spill?**

- A. A spare tire
- B. A fire extinguisher rated for electrical fires only
- C. A first-aid kit and extra food
- D. Personal protective equipment and absorbent material

**21. Ultra-low volume (ULV) formulations are unique because they:**

- A. Must be diluted with large amounts of water before use
- B. Are applied at very small volumes with little or no additional dilution
- C. Are always applied as granules
- D. Contain only inert ingredients

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**22. The signal word on a pesticide label indicates:**

- A. The chemical class of the active ingredient
- B. Whether the product is restricted or general use
- C. The relative acute toxicity of the pesticide
- D. How quickly the pesticide breaks down in the environment

**23. Complete metamorphosis (holometabolous development) passes through which sequence of stages?**

- A. Egg → Larva → Pupa → Adult
- B. Egg → Nymph → Adult
- C. Egg → Larva → Adult
- D. Egg → Pupa → Adult

**24. A dust/mist filtering respirator is appropriate protection against which type of pesticide hazard?**

- A. Pesticide dusts and mists
- B. Highly toxic vapors and gases
- C. Fumigants
- D. Systemic organophosphate vapors

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**25. A pesticide container being transported must have:**

- A. The original label or a copy of it attached to the container
- B. Only a shipper's manifest taped to the outside
- C. No labeling if the driver knows what the product is
- D. A temporary color-coded sticker replacing the label

**26. What is the main advantage of a soluble concentrate (SL) formulation over an emulsifiable concentrate (EC)?**

- A. SL forms a true solution in water, leaving no residue in the tank
- B. SL contains higher concentrations of active ingredient
- C. SL requires no personal protective equipment during mixing
- D. SL is always less toxic to mammals

**27. Which signal word indicates the highest level of acute toxicity on a pesticide label?**

- A. CAUTION
- B. DANGER
- C. WARNING
- D. HAZARD

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**28. Grasshoppers undergo incomplete metamorphosis. What is the immature stage called?**

- A. Larva
- B. Nymph
- C. Pupa
- D. Grub

**29. Which respirator type provides the highest level of respiratory protection for pesticide applicators?**

- A. Dust mask (N95 filtering facepiece)
- B. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
- C. Half-face respirator with OV/P100 cartridges
- D. Paper surgical mask



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**30. Pesticide storage facilities should be located:**

- A. Near water sources for easy dilution of spills
- B. Away from wells, streams, and flood-prone areas
- C. Inside homes for security
- D. Adjacent to food storage areas for convenience



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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### 1. A — Emulsifiable Concentrate

EC stands for Emulsifiable Concentrate, a liquid formulation that contains the active ingredient dissolved in an organic solvent with an emulsifier so it can be mixed with water for application.

### 2. A — Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

FIFRA stands for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, the primary federal law regulating pesticide sale, distribution, and use in the United States.

### 3. C — 6

All adult insects are members of class Insecta and have exactly 6 legs. Spiders (arachnids) have 8, and myriapods have many more.

### 4. A — Hands and wrists

Chemical-resistant gloves are designed to protect the hands and wrists from dermal exposure to pesticide concentrates. The skin on hands is a major route of pesticide absorption.

### 5. A — Warn emergency responders about the contents in case of an accident

Placards identify the hazardous material being transported so that emergency responders (firefighters, EMS, police) can take appropriate protective actions in the event of an accident or spill.

### 6. B — Microencapsulated (ME or CS)

Microencapsulated formulations encase the active ingredient in tiny polymer capsules, which reduces dermal exposure and inhalation risk for the applicator during mixing and application.

### 7. C — EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) is the federal agency responsible for registering pesticides and enforcing FIFRA. States may also regulate pesticide use within their borders but cannot be less restrictive than federal law.

### 8. A — Thorax

The thorax is the middle body segment and is the attachment point for all three pairs of legs and, in winged insects, both pairs of wings.

### 9. B — Safety glasses, goggles, face shield, or other protective eyewear

EPA label language 'wear protective eyewear' allows safety glasses, goggles, a face shield, or equivalent protection. Applicators must meet at least that minimum standard.

### 10. B — Tightly sealed and free of leaks or damage

All pesticide containers must be tightly sealed and undamaged before transport to prevent spills, contamination, and exposure to the driver, other motorists, and the environment.

### 11. A — Wettable powder (WP)

Suspension concentrates (also called flowables) are similar to wettable powders in that the active ingredient is



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suspended in liquid rather than dissolved. However, SC formulations are pre-mixed as a liquid, reducing dust exposure during handling.

**12. B — A violation of federal law**

The pesticide label is the law. Using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling is a federal violation under FIFRA, regardless of applicator certification status.

**13. B — 2**

Arachnids have two main body regions: the cephalothorax (fused head and thorax) and the abdomen. This distinguishes them from insects, which have three distinct segments.

**14. C — Reducing dermal pesticide exposure**

Long-sleeved shirts and long pants reduce the skin surface area exposed to pesticide drift, splashes, or residues, thereby lowering dermal absorption.

**15. C — Physically separated from food, feed, and people**

Pesticides must be separated from food, feed, and passengers to prevent contamination and exposure. Commingling pesticides with consumables creates a health hazard and may violate federal law.

**16. B — Water-dispersible granule (WDG)**

Water-dispersible granules (also called dry flowables or DG) disperse in water with less dust hazard than wettable powders, significantly reducing inhalation risk during the mixing and loading process.

**17. A — The EPA registration number**

Every registered pesticide label must display the EPA registration number, which confirms the product has been reviewed and registered by the EPA.

**18. D — Stylet (beak)**

Aphids and other piercing-sucking insects possess needle-like stylets that penetrate plant or animal tissue to extract fluids. Chewing mouthparts remove solid tissue, while rasping and sponging types are distinct feeding strategies.

**19. D — Chemical-resistant boots or rubber boots**

Chemical-resistant or rubber boots prevent liquids from soaking through to the skin. Leather, canvas, and open-toe footwear can absorb pesticide concentrates.

**20. D — Personal protective equipment and absorbent material**

Vehicles transporting pesticides should carry PPE (gloves, goggles, protective clothing) and spill containment/absorbent material so the driver can safely respond to minor leaks or spills without waiting for emergency services.

**21. B — Are applied at very small volumes with little or no additional dilution**

ULV formulations are concentrated liquids designed to be applied at very low volume rates (often less than 0.5 gallons per acre) with minimal or no water dilution, commonly used in mosquito abatement programs.

**22. C — The relative acute toxicity of the pesticide**

Signal words (DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION) indicate the relative acute toxicity of the pesticide to humans and help users understand the level of hazard involved.



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**23. A — Egg → Larva → Pupa → Adult**

Holometabolous insects (beetles, flies, moths, etc.) undergo complete metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The pupal stage is the key distinction from incomplete (egg–nymph–adult) metamorphosis.

**24. A — Pesticide dusts and mists**

Dust/mist respirators use mechanical filtration to trap particulates. They do not protect against vapors or gases, which require organic-vapor cartridges or supplied-air respirators.

**25. A — The original label or a copy of it attached to the container**

Federal law (FIFRA) requires that pesticide containers bear the EPA-registered label. This label must accompany the container during transport so that emergency responders and inspectors can identify the product and its hazards.

**26. A — SL forms a true solution in water, leaving no residue in the tank**

Soluble concentrates dissolve completely in water to form a true solution, whereas ECs form an emulsion. This means SL formulations leave no residue in tanks or filters and generally result in more uniform spray coverage.

**27. B — DANGER**

DANGER is the signal word for the highest toxicity category (Category I), indicating the product is highly toxic. CAUTION is lowest (Category III/IV) and WARNING is intermediate (Category II).

**28. B — Nymph**

In hemimetabolous (incomplete metamorphosis) insects such as grasshoppers, the immature stage is a nymph — it resembles the adult but lacks functional wings and reproductive maturity.

**29. B — Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)**

An SCBA supplies its own clean-air source and provides the highest level of protection, required for entry into highly toxic or oxygen-deficient atmospheres such as fumigant-treated spaces.

**30. B — Away from wells, streams, and flood-prone areas**

Storing pesticides away from water bodies, wells, and flood-prone areas prevents contamination of water supplies if a container leaks or a flood carries chemicals off site.



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