



Update on Certification Plans

**EPA's Certification and Work Protection Branch
Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division
Office of Pesticide Programs**

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April 2023**





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Outline

- **Update on State/Tribal Certification Plan Reviews**
 - Regulatory Deadline
 - Status of Plans
 - Upcoming Work
 - Implementation
 - Upcoming Technical Program Resources (for Certification)



CPA Rule Regulatory Deadline

- FIFRA requires an EPA-approved Certification Plan for RUP applicator certification programs
- Plans modified because of 2017 rule revision
- EPA's regulatory deadline for Certification Plan approval
 - **November 4, 2023 (extended from March 4, 2022)**
 - Extension informed by Regional projections and co-regulator/stakeholder comments
 - No additional extensions
- See Docket# EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0831 at www.regulations.gov⁴



Status of Certification Plan Approvals

- **68 certification plans in total**
- All **62 SLA and Tribal plans** have been reviewed by EPA and returned to the certifying authority for revisions
- **26 certification plans approved (SLA + Federal)**

6 Tribal Plans



42 Remaining Approvals

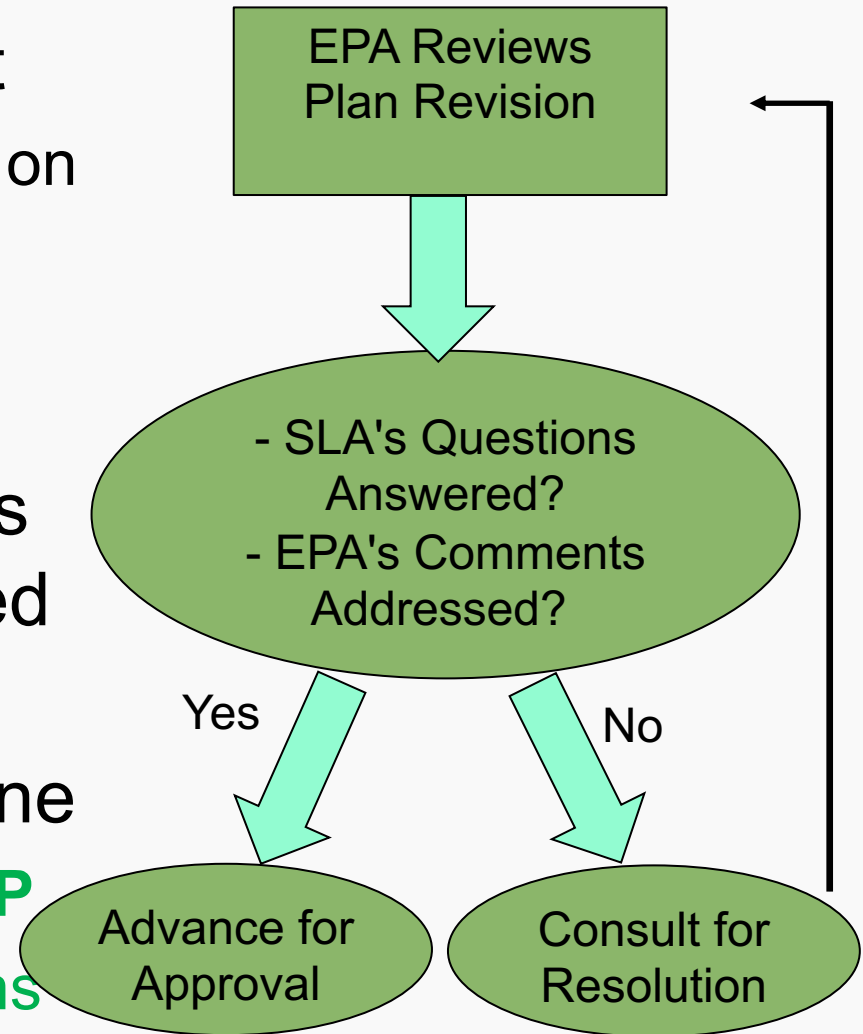
Region/Group	Approved	Approvals Remaining 4/16/23
1	3	3
2	4	0
3	2	4
4	2	6
5	1	6
6	0	5
7	1	5
8	1	7
9	4	3
10	3	2
OCSPP	5	1

AK, AZ, CA, CT, DC,
DE, GA, HI, IN, MS, NE,
NH, NJ, NV, NY, OR,
PR, SD, VI, VT, WA



Ongoing SLA Plan Revisions

- Collaboration is important
 - Regions will work with you on timeline for addressing comments/revision
 - **Set due dates**
- EPA team reviewing plans revised to address detailed review comments
- November 4, 2023 deadline
 - Aim for resubmission **ASAP**
 - **Need flow of incoming plans**





Work Plan and Prioritization

- Set schedule to:
 - Take all steps into account leading up to deadline
 - State reviews and revisions
 - EPA reviews
 - QA/QC
 - Regional and HQ
 - Routing plans through state, through EPA
 - EPA aiming to stagger reviews and routing to maintain consistency and quality of reviews, and to avoid bottlenecks



Unapproved Plans

- Before rejecting a Plan, EPA to provide
 - Notice
 - Opportunity to have informal hearing
- EPA is responsible for implementing certification for jurisdictions without EPA-approved plans



Implementation Phase

- Certification plan revisions are/will translate to state and tribal program changes
 - Certifying authorities are making changes to certification/licensing programs, such as adding or updating applicator certification categories
 - State's approach may vary as long as competency standards addressed
- Changes may go into effect at different times, before or after the plan approvals, based on each plan's implementation schedule
- Meanwhile, existing plans and relevant parts of their programs remain in effect

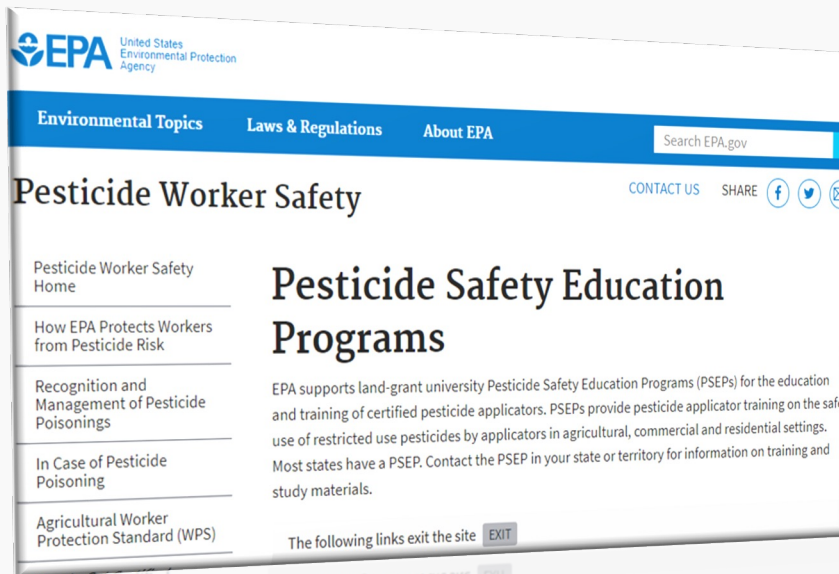


Implementation Phase

- EPA's role in a nutshell
 - Provide guidance and technical assistance, as needed
 - Implementation support
 - Review annual reporting
 - Review and approve plan modifications, as needed
 - Implement EPA Plan in Indian country (e.g., issue federal certifications)
 - Support development of tools/resources (e.g., fund grants)



Powered-Up - An Advanced Pesticide Safety Education Funds Management Program



- Recipient: Extension Foundation – nonprofit
- Distributes funds to PSEPs at land grant universities
- Supports pesticide applicator education and training for certified applicators
- Projects are shared for national/regional use



Continuation of Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding

- PSEPs provide important work to train and education applicators
- Extension Foundation cooperative agreement coming to a close
 - Has distributed all funds available to it in 2022
- EPA soliciting applications for a new award for 45 days
 - Published March 13, closes April 27, 2023
 - [Visit Grants.gov](https://www.epa.gov/grants)
 - See also [EPA Grants](https://www.epa.gov/grants)



Continuation of Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding

- Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2022 (PRIA 5)
 - Reauthorized – signed into law December 30, 2022
 - PRIA 5 includes mandate to provide up to \$500K annually to PSEPs FY23 - 27
 - Similar to prior PRIA amounts
- Agency anticipates providing EPM funds, as available, in addition to PRIA set aside



Field Implementation Meeting Support

- Recipient: Michigan State University with subawards to National Pesticide Safety Education Center and Migrant Clinicians Network
- Meetings of stakeholders – State government, PSEPs, clinicians, farmworker groups, other nonprofits, companies and associations (e.g., PACT conference – see next slide!)
- Collaboration Teams: Respirator, IPM Education, Pacific Island PSE, Pollinators, Dicamba, Paraquat and Invasive Species
- [Certification and Training Assessment Group](#) (CTAG): working on online exams, label-mandated training, and delivering various online trainings.
- Webinars (such as, [PACT 2023 Series](#) and [PACT 2021 Series](#))



Register!

May 15-17

Traverse City, MI

<https://pactmeeting.us/>



2023 PACT Meeting
Webinars



Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative



- Recipient: UC Davis in collaboration with OR State
- Coordinates the development of pesticide-related educational resources (e.g., manuals, videos, guides) that meet national needs related to implementing the Worker Protection Standard and CPA regulations.
- Applicator Certification – seed treatment manual, non-soil fumigation certification manual, Core Manual addendum, noncertified applicator training
- <https://pesticideresources.org/ct/index.html>





PERC Certification Resources

- PERC completed Core Manual addendum (Dec. 2021)
 - Available: <https://pesticideresources.org/ct/corecomp.html>
- Upcoming resources
 - Revising the 2014 National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual and Exam Bank (English), expected in 2024
 - Revising the 2014 National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual and Exam Bank (Spanish), expected in 2025-2026
 - Revising the 2012 Soil Fumigation Manual and Exam Bank (English), expected in 2024



EPA Regional Certification Contacts

- | | |
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