

# 2025

## WSDA Pesticide Compliance Legislative Report

As required by RCW 15.58.420 and RCW 17.21.350(1)



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

**Derek Sandison, Director**

# WSDA Pesticide Compliance Legislative Report

*As required by RCW15.58.420 and RCW 17.21.350(1)*

**Prepared by the Agricultural Environmental Services (AES) Division**

This document fulfills annual reporting requirements under RCW 15.58.420 and RCW 17.21.350(1).

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## Summary

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has delegated authority from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). WSDA's Agricultural Environmental Services Division (AES) pesticide programs establish an integrated approach to pesticide management under the authority of the [Washington Pesticide Control Act \(Chapter 15.58 RCW\)](#), the [Washington Pesticide Application Act \(Chapter 17.21 RCW\)](#), the [General Pesticide Rules \(Chapter 16-228 WAC\)](#), the [Worker Protection Standard \(Chapter 16-233 WAC\)](#) and several pesticide-specific regulations. This document fulfills annual reporting requirements under [RCW 15.58.420](#) and [RCW 17.21.350\(1\)](#).

[RCW 17.21.350\(2\)](#) requires reporting on the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program. . Reports can be found at: <https://www.fda.gov/food/pesticides/pesticide-residue-monitoring-program-reports-and-data>.

## PESTICIDE COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

The AES Division Pesticide Compliance Program carries out the enforcement of federal and state regulations relating to pesticide storage, distribution, transportation, disposal, and use. The program protects human health and the environment through technical assistance, routine compliance inspections, and investigations of complaints. Pesticide Compliance staff holds users accountable for proper pesticide use by issuing penalties when potential harm or damage occurs.

Each year, the program provides customer service responses to hundreds of questions and concerns regarding pesticide use, licensing, distribution, and disposal. The Compliance program initiates investigations of complaints, agency referrals, investigator observations, and other sources of information. In addition, WSDA pesticide investigators collaborate with other state agencies, including the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB), Department of Health (DOH), and Labor & Industries (L&I). The Compliance Program provides technical support per MOUs that outline each agency's responsibilities when conducting investigations where jurisdictions meet.

### Pesticide Compliance Program Enforcement Activities – FY25

- Conducted **320 inspections** to ensure that pesticide application businesses, marketplaces (stores), dealers/distributors (specially licensed retailers), importers, manufacturers, pesticide applicators, and employers comply with state and federal pesticide laws. This includes inspections at farms, orchards, forests, and nurseries to ensure compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).
- Conducted **104 investigations** in response to agency referrals, investigator surveillance, and complaints related to possible misuse, improper storage, sales, and distribution, applicator licensing violations, and building structure inspections for wood-destroying organisms such as termites.

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*WSDA's Pesticide Compliance Program carries out the enforcement of federal and state regulations relating to pesticide storage, distribution, transportation, disposal, and use.*

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## Overview of Enforcement Actions

The Compliance Program issues a variety of enforcement actions across many inspection and investigation types. Enforcement actions range from no action and verbal warning or advisory responses to official Notices of Correction or Intent. Most first offense violations receive a Notice of Correction (NOC), which can lay the groundwork for future enforcement actions. Consistent with RCW 43.05.100, NOCs document which laws or rules have been violated, how to correct those violations, and a due date for corrective action. Another type of enforcement action, a Stop Sale Use, and Removal Order, can be issued when a pesticide is illegally distributed, stored, or transported within Washington state.

If a pesticide violation meets one of the following criteria under RCW 43.05.110, which provides guidance for more serious or repeat violations, the program issues a penalty action (Notice of Intent or NOI) as appropriate. NOIs are typically monetary penalties and may also include pesticide license suspension. The WSDA Pesticide Penalty Assignment Schedule ranges from a minimum of \$250 up to \$7,500 per violation.

## Inspection Types Conducted

- **Applicator Licensing/Records-** to determine whether applicators are properly licensed, maintain required records, store pesticides appropriately, and ensure that application equipment is licensed and in good working order.
- **Bulk Pesticide Storage** – to check if a facility meets the requirements for a permanent storage facility (also known as secondary containment).
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Producer Establishment-** using federal credentials, WSDA staff work under a cooperative agreement with the EPA. The EPA assesses violations and issues enforcement actions for these inspections.
- **I-502 Cannabis** – to ensure that companies growing high THC cannabis are using pesticides properly, maintaining required records, and taking measures to protect the health and safety of their workers and pesticide handlers.
- **Dealer-** to verify whether facilities that sell or distribute general use and restricted use pesticides (RUP) have proper licensing and recordkeeping.
- **Marketplace** – to determine whether retail establishments distributing pesticides to the public are not selling products that require a Dealer Manager license (such as RUP or general use pesticides). WSDA also checks to make sure pesticides are properly registered, stored appropriately, have proper labels, and product containers have child-resistant packaging, if required.
- **School Records** – to ensure licensed day care centers or public K-12 schools comply with laws and follow additional record keeping and notification requirements in RCW 17.21.415.
- **Use** – to determine whether pesticides are being used properly in both agricultural and non-agricultural sites. This includes ensuring users are following all label directions, state laws, or rules, including Worker Protection Standard regulations.
- **Worker Protection Standard (WPS)-** to ensure that the “Agricultural Employer or Handler Employer” is doing what is required to protect the health and safety of their workers and pesticide handlers.

**Table 1. Number of Enforcement Actions Issued by Inspection Type– FY25**

| Inspection Type              | Number of Inspections | Enforcement Actions Issued by WSDA in FY25* |                           |                |                      |                            |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
|                              |                       | No Action                                   | Warning / Advisory Letter | Stop Sales/Use | Notice of Correction | Penalty / Notice of Intent |
| Applicator Licensing/Records | 34                    | 21  | 6                         | 0              | 32                   | 0                          |
| Bulk Pesticide Storage       | 4                     | 3   | 1                         | 0              | 0                    | 0                          |
| EPA/Producer Establishment   | 3                     | 3   | 0                         | 0              | 0                    | 0                          |
| I-502 Cannabis               | 33                    | 25  | 6                         | 0              | 10                   | 0                          |
| Dealer                       | 48                    | 29  | 5                         | 0              | 32                   | 0                          |
| Marketplace                  | 65                    | 35  | 3                         | 1              | 44                   | 1                          |
| School Records               | 5                     | 3   | 1                         | 0              | 4                    | 0                          |
| Use                          | 81                    | 45  | 16                        | 0              | 61                   | 2                          |
| Worker Protection Standard   | 47                    | 28  | 4                         | 0              | 28                   | 4                          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                | <b>320</b>            | <b>195</b>                                  | <b>42</b>                 | <b>1</b>       | <b>211</b>           | <b>7</b>                   |

Table 1. Shows the number of enforcement actions issued by inspection type during Fiscal Year 2025  
 Note: \*Multiple enforcement actions can result from a single inspection

Given the diversity of pesticide use and regulation, there is a great variety in the types of allegations and incidents that WSDA pesticide compliance investigators respond to, including:

- Plant and/or property damage alleging pesticide-related symptoms.
- Alleged human exposure or concern for potential human exposure.
- Pesticide licensing incidents, including alleged cheating on pesticide applicator exams.
- Potential pesticide exposure to animals, including pets and wildlife.
- Allegations of honeybee and other pollinator deaths from pesticides.
- Misapplication and/or drift of pesticides to non-crop sites such as right of way (ROW) applications, industrial sites, lawncare, mosquito control applications, and residential sites.
- Misapplication and/or drift of pesticides to agricultural (crop) sites (including Cannabis).
- Allegations of illegal pesticide distribution, contamination, and fraud.
- Incidents that are eventually found out to be non-pesticide related, including such factors as odors, drought, plant pathogens, or other causal factors.

The pesticide compliance program’s investigation process is a systematic effort to thoroughly document the facts, collect evidence, and determine if any violation(s) have occurred.

**Table 2. Number of the Types of Enforcement Actions Issued for Investigations– FY25**

| Number of Investigations | Enforcement Actions Issued in FY25* |            |                          |                      |                            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
|                          | No Action                           | Stop Sales | Warning/ Advisory Letter | Notice of Correction | Penalty / Notice of Intent |
| 104                      | 71                                  | 0          | 10                       | 55                   | 8                          |

Table 2. Shows the number of enforcement actions issued for investigations conducted during Fiscal Year 2025  
 Note: \*Multiple enforcement actions can result from a single investigation.

**WSDA Pesticide Enforcement Civil Penalties and Licensing Actions- FY25**

The Pesticide Compliance Program posts information on NOI and final penalty actions online. Appendix D represents those listed that were processed and completed in FY25. Some investigations initiated in FY25 resulted in an NOI that will not be processed until after the close of the fiscal year and therefore do not appear in this report. The NOI list includes the parties involved and the amount and type of penalty assessed (dollar amount of civil penalty and/or license suspension). Compliance does not post information related to the issuance of Notice of Corrections (NOCs), as they are not considered formal penalty actions.

To see details of these actions for the last 7 years, WSDA’s retention period, visit our website at: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/inspections-and-investigations/investigations/pesticide-enforcement-actions>

**Table 3. Formal Compliance Enforcement Actions—Final Orders Issued – FY25**

| Case Number               | Party(ies) Involved (County of Incident)     | Description   | Civil Penalty/ License Action        | Date of Final Order |
|---------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| PM-24-0009<br>KJC-0009-24 | CHS Northwest Ferndale<br><br>(Whatcom)      | INSPECTION<br>A routine pesticide dealer inspection on May 14, 2024 discovered repeat violations for distributing pesticides without a Pesticide Dealer Manager present.                | \$300 penalty<br><br>(final order)   | Aug. 28, 2024       |
| PM-24-0009<br>RAS-0007-23 | Teufel Landscaping and Nursery<br><br>(King) | INVESTIGATION<br>A complaint from a homeowner on May 13, 2024 related to a landscape application found repeat violations for recordkeeping and supervision of an unlicensed applicator. | \$1,550 penalty<br><br>(final order) | Aug. 28, 2024       |

| Case Number               | Party(ies) Involved (County of Incident)   | Description   | Civil Penalty/ License Action          | Date of Final Order |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------|
| PM-24-0011<br>SCH-0008-24 | Waler Meise / Northwest Ag.<br><br>(Grant) | INVESTIGATION<br>A complaint from a neighboring farmer on April 11, 2024, related to drift of an agricultural application which caused damage to desirable plants.  | \$500 penalty<br><br>(final order)     | Sep. 11, 2024       |
| PM-24-0013<br>PTH-0020-24 | Tractor Supply Co.<br><br>(Shelby, TN)     | INSPECTION<br>A for-cause marketplace inspection on July 9, 2024, discovered an unlicensed pesticide dealer in Washington state distributing general use and restricted use pesticides. This was determined to be a repeat violation. | \$500 penalty<br><br>(final order)     | Sep. 23, 2024       |
| PM-24-0012<br>DTB-0020-24 | Indoor Tropics<br><br>(Okanogan)           | INSPECTION<br>A for-cause marketplace inspection on August 5, 2024 discovered an unlicensed pesticide dealer distributing general use pesticides that was determined to be a repeat violation.  | \$1,550 penalty<br><br>(default order) | Oct. 2, 2024        |
| PC-25-0001<br>EEH-0002-25 | Valley Agronomics LLC<br><br>(Canyon - ID) | INSPECTION<br>A routine pesticide dealer inspection on January 14, 2025, in Washington state discovered recordkeeping and pesticide storage violations for restricted use pesticides.   | \$1,000 penalty<br><br>(final order)   | Apr. 1, 2025        |

| Case Number   | Party(ies) Involved (County of Incident)                              | Description   | Civil Penalty/ License Action                | Date of Final Order  |
|---|---|---|--|----------------------|
| <p><b>AESPC-25-0002</b></p> <p><b>GDS-0017-25</b></p> | <p>Enviroguard Pest Control Tri-Cities LLC</p> <p>(Washington-UT)</p> | <p>INVESTIGATION</p> <p>An investigation into harm of a domestic animal in Washington state discovered the use of a restricted use, highly toxic fumigant in violation of its label directions.</p>                           | <p>\$3,000 penalty</p> <p>(settlement)</p>   | <p>May 1, 2025</p>   |
| <p><b>AESPC-25-0005</b></p> <p><b>WSEUP 25001</b></p> | <p>Agriculture Development Group, Inc.</p> <p>(Franklin)</p>          | <p>DEPARTMENT ACTION</p> <p>A researcher self-reported a deviation from the terms of a Department-issued experimental pesticide use permit for an aquatic site.</p>   | <p>Revocation of EUP</p> <p>(settlement)</p> | <p>May 21, 2025</p>  |
| <p><b>AESPC-25-0007</b></p> <p><b>CJS-0009-25</b></p> | <p>Douglas Bruce</p> <p>(Benewah - ID)</p>                            | <p>INVESTIGATION</p> <p>An investigation into a complaint of an unlicensed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) application on a wheat field in Washington state discovered a commercial applicator operating without a license.</p> | <p>\$2,500 penalty</p> <p>(final order)</p>  | <p>Jun. 13, 2025</p> |