

New Healthy School Act training requirement takes effect July 1, 2016

By CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) Staff

Child care program managers should be aware of a new training requirement that took effect July 1, 2016.

All California licensed child care centers are affected.

This training is required under the Healthy Schools Act (HSA), a California right-to-know pesticide law that encourages the use of IPM at child care centers. Integrated pest management (IPM) reduces reliance on pesticides by emphasizing pest prevention and sanitation techniques. The law requires annual training of at least one hour in IPM and the safe use of pesticides around children for anyone applying a pesticide at a child care center.

“The required training will help ensure that pesticides will be used with a better understanding of potential impacts to children’s health,” said Lisa Estridge, CDPR Senior Environmental Scientist.

The training requirement applies to use on a child care center of any product labeled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a "pesticide." This includes many products such as **disinfectants** and **sanitizers** in addition to what most people think of when they hear the word “pesticide”: **insecticides, rodenticides, and weed killers (herbicides)**.

CDPR has developed free, online training courses to meet this requirement. Basic and advanced courses are currently available to address varying job duties and pesticide use. Staff members who use disinfectants and sanitizers should take the “basic” course. Staff members who apply pesticides like herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides should take the “advanced” course.

A group training kit for the CDPR-created “basic” course is available that will allow centers to train multiple people at a time. The kit includes a DVD version of the online course in both English and Spanish and master copies of the required materials. The kit is free of charge.

The new training requirement and other changes resulted from passage of 2014's Senate Bill (SB) 1405. The Healthy Schools Act provisions are found in Education Code section 17608-17614 and Food & Agriculture Code section 13180-13188. These requirements are part of the IPM approach that has been adopted by the State of California as the preferred method of pest control to protect the health of children and adults at public schools and child care centers.

The other changes, posting an IPM plan to center websites and annual pesticide use reporting, went into effect in 2015. Licensed child care centers must annually report their employees’ yearly pesticide use to CDPR (except for disinfectants and other exempt materials), and IPM plans must be completed at the beginning of the school year. Required forms to complete these tasks and more information about the HSA and IPM can be found on CDPR’s School and Child Care IPM Program website, www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm.

Find the CDPR-created training courses

here: <http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/training/main.cfm>.

For more information, to ask questions, or to inquire about a group training kit please email school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov or contact Belinda Messenger at (916) 324-4077.