Washington Pesticide Laws and Safety Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. What is 'section 18' in the context of pesticides?

A. A safety guideline for pesticide storage.

B. The code for international pesticide trade.

C. An emergency exemption from registration.

D. The annual report all applicators must submit.

2. What issues may arise from mixing incompatible pesticides?

A. Increased effectiveness against target pests.

B. Decreased need for agitation in the tank.

C. Loss of effectiveness, phytotoxicity, increased hazard, and clogging of equipment.

D. More efficient dispersion and coverage.

3. What problem do anti-coagulant rodenticides cause in the body?

A. Liver damage

B. Kidney failure

C. Internal bleeding and prevention of blood clotting

D. Severe allergic reactions

4. What is the number to the National Pesticide Information Center located in Corvallis, OR?

A. 1-800-858-7378

B. 1-888-858-7378

C. 1-800-222-1222

D. 1-800-NOT-REAL

5. What is the function of Protopam chloride in poisoning cases?

A. To counteract cyanide poisoning

B. Reactivates cholinesterase in cases of carbamate poisoning

C. Helps reactivate cholinesterase in organophosphate poisoning, but not effective with carbamates

D. Neutralizes acid ingestion

6. Why are inert ingredients added to pesticides?

- **A. To make the product look bigger**
- **B. To reduce the effectiveness**
- **C. For ease of handling, measuring, mixing, and increasing safety and effectiveness**
- **D. Just to fill the bottle**

7. How does the WSDA track pesticide use and compliance in Washington?

- **A. Through voluntary reports from the public**
- **B. Through mandatory reporting by licensed applicators and retailers**
- **C. By random inspections of farms and gardens**
- **D. With assistance from federal agencies only**

8. What should an applicator consider for personal safety when applying pesticides?

- **A. Quality of the equipment used**
- **B. Weather conditions and PPE**
- **C. Duration of the application**
- **D. Popularity of the pesticide**

9. What is meant by an economic threshold in pest management?

- **A. The cost of applying control measures**
- **B. The level of pest tolerance by the crop**
- **C. The level or density of a pest population where control measures need to be applied to prevent the pest from reaching the economic injury level**
- **D. The pest population density at which the crop begins to experience damage**

10. What is the role of surfactants in pesticide applications?

- **A. To serve as a primary killing agent against pests.**
- **B. To alter the dispersing, spreading, and/or wetting properties of spray droplets.**
- **C. To decrease the surface tension of water used in the mix.**
- **D. To eradicate weeds without harming the crops.**

Answers

1. C
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. B

Explanations

1. What is 'section 18' in the context of pesticides?

A. A safety guideline for pesticide storage.

B. The code for international pesticide trade.

C. An emergency exemption from registration.

D. The annual report all applicators must submit.

Section 18 in the context of pesticides refers to an emergency exemption from registration. It is not a safety guideline for pesticide storage (A), nor is it the code for international pesticide trade (B). Additionally, it is not the annual report that all applicators must submit (D). It is important to note that Section 18 is a temporary provision that allows for the use of unregistered pesticides in specific situations where there is an urgent need, such as controlling a pest outbreak.

2. What issues may arise from mixing incompatible pesticides?

A. Increased effectiveness against target pests.

B. Decreased need for agitation in the tank.

C. Loss of effectiveness, phytotoxicity, increased hazard, and clogging of equipment.

D. More efficient dispersion and coverage.

Mixing incompatible pesticides can lead to a loss of effectiveness, causing the pesticides to become less potent and less effective in controlling pests. This can result in increased costs and a need for multiple applications. Additionally, there is a risk of phytotoxicity, which can damage the plants being treated. There is also an increased hazard, as mixing incompatible pesticides can create harmful chemical reactions. Finally, there is a potential for equipment clogging, which can result in delayed or incomplete application of the pesticides. Therefore, it is important to carefully research and follow proper mixing instructions to avoid these potential issues.

3. What problem do anti-coagulant rodenticides cause in the body?

A. Liver damage

B. Kidney failure

C. Internal bleeding and prevention of blood clotting

D. Severe allergic reactions

Anti-coagulant rodenticides work by preventing the blood from clotting, leading to internal bleeding and potentially fatal consequences. Option A, liver damage, may be a result of prolonged exposure to these toxins, but it is not the main problem caused by anti-coagulant rodenticides. Similarly, option B, kidney failure, may occur as a result of the internal bleeding and harm to other organs caused by the rodenticides. Option D, severe allergic reactions, is not a common consequence of anti-coagulant rodenticide exposure and is not the main problem caused by these toxins in the body. Therefore, option C is the best and most accurate answer to the given question.

4. What is the number to the National Pesticide Information Center located in Corvallis, OR?

A. 1-800-858-7378

B. 1-888-858-7378

C. 1-800-222-1222

D. 1-800-NOT-REAL

The correct number to the National Pesticide Information Center is 1-800-858-7378. This is the only valid option in the choices provided as the other options do not correspond to the correct phone number. Option B may seem similar but it contains one extra digit and is not the correct number. Option C is the number for the Poison Control Center, which is a different organization than the National Pesticide Information Center. Option D is a made-up number and does not correspond to the correct phone number for the National Pesticide Information Center. It is important to double check the numbers to ensure the correct information is being contacted.

5. What is the function of Protopam chloride in poisoning cases?

A. To counteract cyanide poisoning

B. Reactivates cholinesterase in cases of carbamate poisoning

C. Helps reactivate cholinesterase in organophosphate poisoning, but not effective with carbamates

D. Neutralizes acid ingestion

Protopam chloride is a medication that is used as an antidote for organophosphate poisoning. Organophosphates are a type of insecticides that inhibit the enzyme cholinesterase, causing paralysis and eventually death. Protopam chloride helps to reactivate cholinesterase in cases of organophosphate poisoning, making it a suitable treatment option. However, it is not effective in cases of carbamate poisoning, which also involves cholinesterase inhibition. Option A is incorrect because Protopam chloride is not used to counteract cyanide poisoning. Option B is incorrect because it states that it reactivates cholinesterase in carbamate poisoning, which is not true. Option D is incorrect because Protopam chloride does not neutralize acid ingestion.

6. Why are inert ingredients added to pesticides?

A. To make the product look bigger

B. To reduce the effectiveness

C. For ease of handling, measuring, mixing, and increasing safety and effectiveness

D. Just to fill the bottle

Inert ingredients are added to pesticides to assist in the handling, measuring, and mixing of the product. They also help to improve the overall safety and effectiveness of the pesticide. This is why options A, B, and D are incorrect. They do not accurately reflect the purpose of adding inert ingredients. In fact, using inert ingredients in pesticides is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that they do not pose harm to humans or the environment. Therefore, inert ingredients have an important role in making pesticides safer and more effective, rather than just being added for appearance or filler purposes.

7. How does the WSDA track pesticide use and compliance in Washington?

A. Through voluntary reports from the public

B. Through mandatory reporting by licensed applicators and retailers

C. By random inspections of farms and gardens

D. With assistance from federal agencies only

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) tracks pesticide use and ensures compliance primarily through mandatory reporting by licensed applicators and retailers. This process is vital because it establishes an official record of pesticide applications, which helps the WSDA to monitor usage patterns, ensure adherence to safety regulations, and maintain environmental and public health standards. Mandatory reporting ensures that all licensed individuals and businesses comply with state laws, providing data that is critical for regulating pesticide application and for taking necessary actions if violations are detected. This structured approach is more effective than relying solely on voluntary reports from the public or conducting random inspections, as it fosters accountability and accuracy in the reporting of pesticide use. Additionally, while inspections may assist in compliance verification, they are part of a broader system that relies heavily on the structured data collected through mandatory reporting. Federal agency involvement supports but does not replace the critical role of state-level compliance systems in tracking pesticide use.

8. What should an applicator consider for personal safety when applying pesticides?

A. Quality of the equipment used

B. Weather conditions and PPE

C. Duration of the application

D. Popularity of the pesticide

When applying pesticides, it is crucial for an applicator to consider weather conditions and personal protective equipment (PPE) for personal safety. Adverse weather conditions, such as high winds, can lead to drift, which not only reduces the effectiveness of the pesticide but can also pose a danger to the applicator and others in the vicinity. Additionally, appropriate PPE, including gloves, goggles, masks, and protective clothing, is essential to safeguard against direct exposure to chemicals that can be harmful to health. This consideration ensures that the applicator minimizes risks associated with toxic exposure and environmental hazards during the application process. Focusing solely on the quality of equipment, duration of application, or the popularity of the pesticide does not directly address the immediate personal safety of the applicator as weather and PPE do. Understanding the environmental conditions and having the right protective gear is fundamental to maintaining safety while handling potentially hazardous substances.

9. What is meant by an economic threshold in pest management?

A. The cost of applying control measures

B. The level of pest tolerance by the crop

C. The level or density of a pest population where control measures need to be applied to prevent the pest from reaching the economic injury level

D. The pest population density at which the crop begins to experience damage

An economic threshold is the point at which the cost of controlling a pest is equal to the value of the damage caused by the pest. This means that applying control measures before the economic threshold is reached may be unnecessary and cost more than the potential damage by the pest. Option A is incorrect because the economic threshold is not just based on the cost of control measures, but also takes into consideration the potential value of the crop. Option B is incorrect because it refers to the level of tolerance for a pest, rather than the economic threshold. Option D is incorrect because it only mentions the point at which damage begins, not the economic implications of pest control measures. The correct answer, option C, is the level or density of the pest population at which control measures should be applied to avoid reaching the economic injury level, which is when the cost of damage caused by the pest outweighs the cost of control measures.

10. What is the role of surfactants in pesticide applications?

A. To serve as a primary killing agent against pests.

B. To alter the dispersing, spreading, and/or wetting properties of spray droplets.

C. To decrease the surface tension of water used in the mix.

D. To eradicate weeds without harming the crops.

Surfactants play an essential role in pesticide applications by altering the properties of spray droplets. They can improve the contact and penetration of pesticides on plant surfaces, increasing their effectiveness. Option A is incorrect because surfactants are not meant to directly kill pests, but rather to assist in the application process. Option C is also incorrect because while surfactants do decrease the surface tension of water, it is not their primary purpose in pesticide applications. Option D is also incorrect because surfactants do not specifically target weeds, but rather assist in the overall application of pesticides.