

## Consultation draft

### August 2024

**When reviewing this draft guidance please note the following:**

- This draft does not necessarily present WorkSafe’s final position on any matters within it.
- Please use the submission feedback form provided on WorkSafe’s Consultation webpage to provide your feedback.

**Submissions close 5pm Friday 20 September 2024**

Completed submission forms can be sent to:

[guidanceandeducationdevelopment@worksafe.govt.nz](mailto:guidanceandeducationdevelopment@worksafe.govt.nz)

# Restricted entry intervals for pesticides

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This guidance outlines what a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to do if they have management or control of an area where a pesticide with a restricted entry interval (REI) has been applied.

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## What is an REI?

An REI is a period of time when people are not allowed in an area where a pesticide with an REI has been applied. This protects workers and others from exposure to harmful levels of pesticides through inhalation or contact with skin.

## How to tell if a pesticide has an REI

REIs are not needed for all pesticides. If an REI has been set this should be on the product label and safety data sheet. You can also check WorkSafe’s webpage: [Restricted entry intervals for pesticides](#)

## Amount of time for an REI

As pesticides vary widely in toxicity, they will have different REIs. The REI for a pesticide can also be different between crops because the REI is determined by:

- the type of foliage the pesticide is applied to
- the type of activity carried out, and

- the amount of contact a person may have with the treated foliage after application.

For example, the REI for Carbaryl is 21 days when used on apples and 12 days when used on strawberries.

REIs can only be set for crops specified on the label. For off-label uses you need to carry out your own risk assessment considering the application rate, type of crop and the factors considered below.

## What you are required to do

You, as the PCBU with management or control of an area where a pesticide with an REI is being applied, must make sure:

- no one enters an application area until the end of the REI unless they are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), to minimise exposure to the pesticide residues
- signs are put up for an indoor application area such as a green house.

## PPE for entry during REI

Before a person enters an application area during the REI you must make sure the person has appropriate PPE.

You must provide the PPE unless it is provided by another PCBU, or the person chooses to provide their own PPE for reasons of comfort or convenience, and you are satisfied the PPE is appropriate.

You must provide the person with information and training on how to correctly wear or use the PPE, and how to store and maintain the PPE.

### What is appropriate PPE?

The appropriate PPE a person should wear or use in an application area during an REI will depend on the type of activity they will carry out and their potential exposure to pesticide residues. Different activities in the same application area may require different PPE.

Consider the factors in table 1 to help you determine the potential exposure a person may have to pesticide residues.

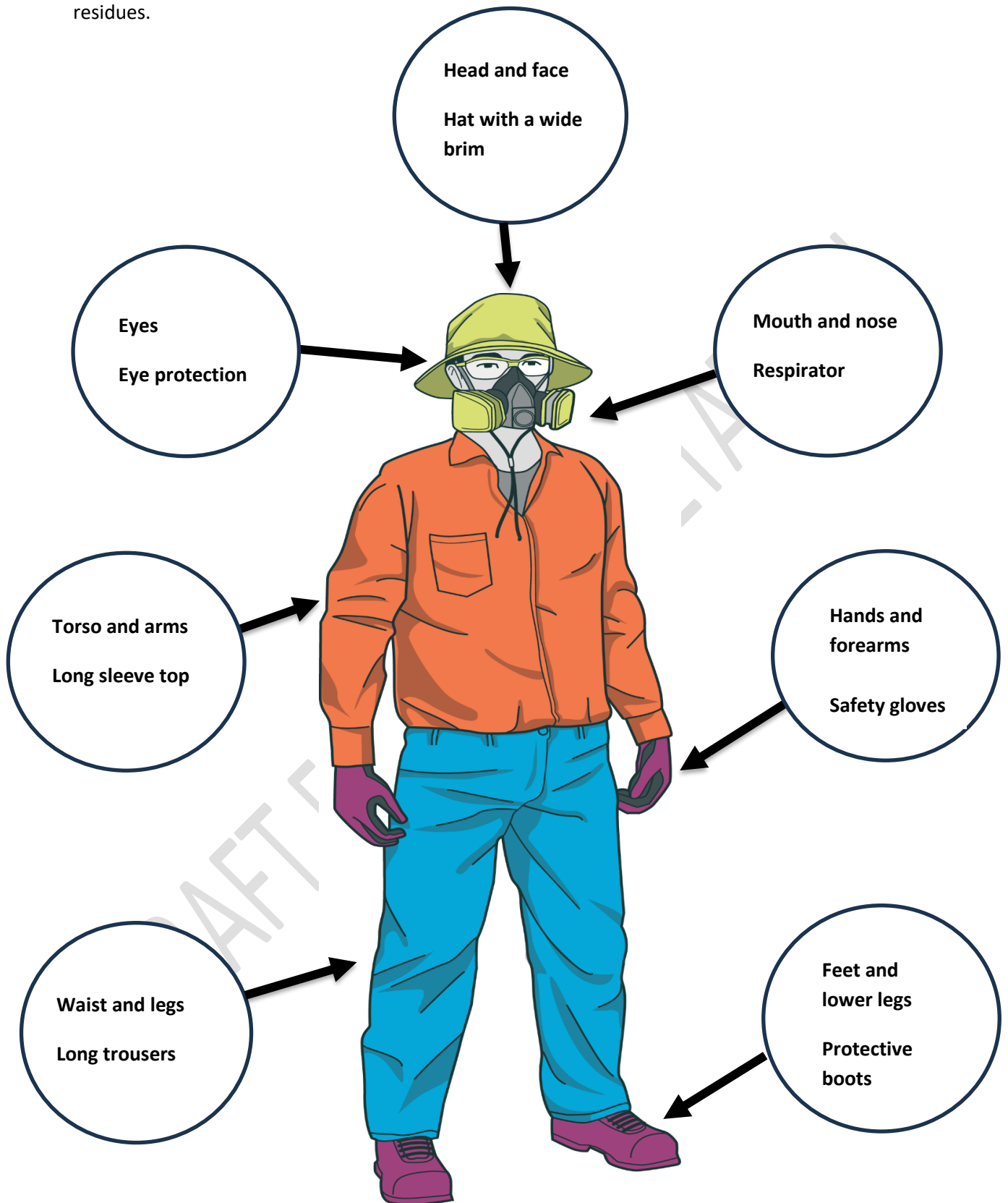
<b>Factors that affect potential exposure</b>	<b>Questions to ask</b>
Type of activity	<i>Will the person come into contact with the pesticide residue? Will the person be at risk of inhaling pesticide dust or vapours?</i>
Time since spraying	<i>Is dried residue likely to be disturbed and create an inhalation risk? Is the foliage still wet? Could there still be aerosols in the air?</i>
Amount of exposure time	<i>Will the person be spending lots of time moving in or through the application area?</i>
Height of the crop	<i>Will the person be reaching up into foliage? Is foliage near the head of the person?</i>
Structure of crop	<i>What parts of the body are likely to contact pesticide residue because of the way the crop is arranged?</i>

Amount of foliage present and its density	<i>Will workers need to reach their arms into foliage?</i>
Whether the crop is indoors or outdoors	<i>How ventilated is the application area?</i>

**Table 1: Factors that can affect potential exposure**

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When selecting appropriate PPE consider what parts of the body may be exposed to pesticide residues.



**Figure 1: Parts of the body that may be exposed to pesticide residues and examples of appropriate PPE**

Depending on the level of exposure, appropriate PPE for entry during an REI may include one or more items from table 2.

<b>Type of PPE</b>	<b>How PPE protects person</b>
Hat with a wide brim, a visor or face net	Prevents the head and face being exposed to the pesticide.
Eye protection (for example, goggles or a face shield)	Prevents the eyes being exposed to the pesticide.
Respirator or dust mask	Prevents inhalation of pesticide vapours or dust through the mouth and nose.
Safety gloves	Prevents hands and forearms from contact with the pesticide and to minimise risk of rubbing eyes.
Long sleeve top or other protective clothing (for example, coveralls, head and neck cover)	Prevents the torso and arms from contact with the pesticide.
Long trousers or other protective clothing (for example, coveralls)	Prevents the waist and legs from contact with the pesticide.
Protective boots or other protective footwear	Prevents the feet and lower legs from contact with the pesticide.

**Table 2: Appropriate PPE for entry during an REI**

### Selecting PPE for different activities carried out during REI

Most activities carried out in an application area during an REI require PPE covering hands, legs and feet as a minimum to prevent contact with application surfaces such as foliage or soil.



**Figure 2: PPE for hands, legs and feet**

Covering the head, torso, and arms (including shoulders) is usually required for activities that involve bending or reaching into plants, or crops above waist height.



**Figure 3: PPE for head, torso and arms**

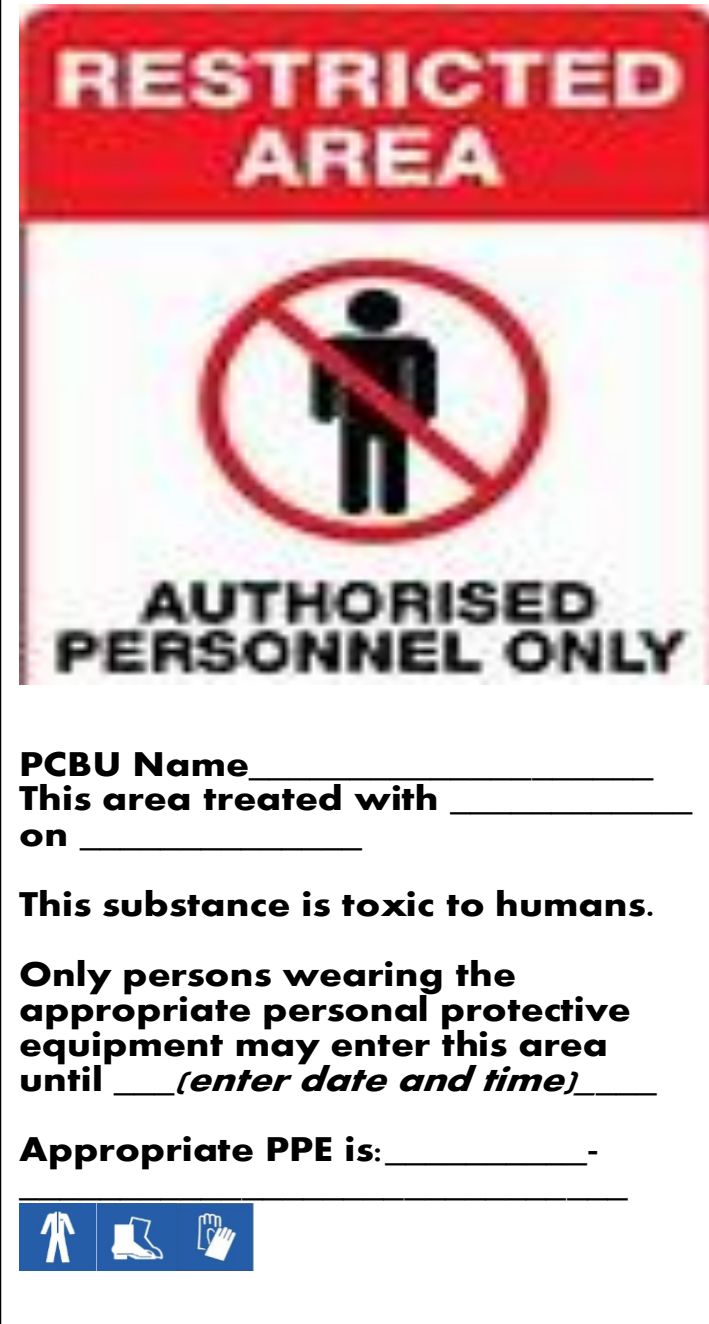
For more information about PPE, see WorkSafe's webpage: [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)

## Signage

### Signs for indoor application areas

If the application area is indoors you must:

- put signs up outside the application area, at every routine point of entry into the area from the start of the application until the end of the application or the end of the REI, whichever is the later
- remove the signs within 72 hours of the end of the application or the end of the REI, whichever is the later.



**RESTRICTED  
AREA**

**AUTHORISED  
PERSONNEL ONLY**

**PCBU Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**This area treated with** \_\_\_\_\_  
**on** \_\_\_\_\_

**This substance is toxic to humans.**

**Only persons wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment may enter this area until \_\_\_(enter date and time)\_\_\_**

**Appropriate PPE is:** \_\_\_\_\_



Figure 4: Example of sign for indoor application area

### **Signs for outdoor application areas**

For an outdoor application area there is no regulatory requirement to have signs. However, you may choose to make people aware that an REI is in place by putting up signs or sending out an electronic notification.

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