

Understanding the 3336™ Drench Exemption

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) initiated in 1992 was designed to reduce the risks of illness or injury resulting from worker occupational exposure and accidental exposure to pesticides used on Farms or in Nurseries, Greenhouses, and Forests. By October of 1994, all EPA registered products that provided for use in the described areas modified labeling to comply with this standard.

The most familiar modification to product labeling is the Agricultural Use Box. This section of the label provides important information regarding worker safety. In particular, it discusses two important items: the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). By now these two terms are an everyday part of production in the identified WPS use areas.

Recently, EPA has approved label language that provides for exemptions under the WPS standard. This exemption language has been approved for the 3336 WP (EPA Reg. No. 1001-63) and 3336 F (EPA Reg. No 1001-69) products. The language from the Agricultural Use Requirements box is as follows:

“Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours. Exemption: If the product is applied by drenching, the Worker Protection Standard, under certain circumstances, allows workers to enter the treated area if there will be no contact with anything that has been treated.”

What are the certain circumstances that fit this exemption statement?

EPA regulations outline these circumstances in 40 CFR 170.110 (b), Table 1

and (c)(4), Table 2. These tables provide a checklist of situations and the permitted responses allowed for Nursery and Greenhouse applications. This table as it applies to 3336 WP and 3336 F is summarized below.

Nursery Drench Applications: For Cleary’s 3336 WP and 3336 F products, a WPS exemption for can be used if the application is made as follows:

1. Applied downward
2. At a height of less than 12 inches from the planting medium
3. Not as a fine spray
4. At a pressure less than 40 PSI

Greenhouse Drench Applications: For Cleary’s 3336 WP and 3336 F, a WPS exemption for can be used if the application is made as follows:

1. Applied at a height of less than 12 inches from the planting medium
2. Not as a fine spray
3. At a pressure less than 40 PSI

This criteria also applies to **3336 F**, however due to label requirement for respirator use in enclosed areas, an exemption can not be used until one of the ventilation criteria described below is met:

1. Ten air exchanges
2. Two hours of ventilation using fans or other mechanical ventilating systems
3. Four hours of ventilation using vents, windows or other passive ventilation
4. The 12 hour REI has expired.