Chapter 4: Farming

4.6 Agrochemicals Management

4.6.5 - 4.6.7

Agrochemicals management 4.6.5 - 4.6.7

This activity covers requirements that focus on the appropriate **preparation** and **application** of agrochemicals.

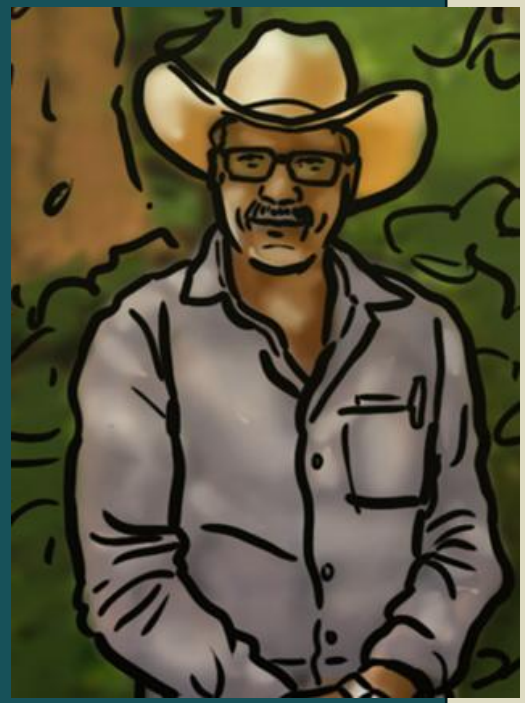
The requirements are applicable to all farms.

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.5	Pesticides are prepared and applied according to the label, MSDS or security tag, or as recommended by an official national organization or a competent technician, especially with regards to: • Safe transport to area of application • Respecting the correct dosage • Using appropriate equipment and techniques • Appropriate weather conditions • Respecting restricted entry intervals (REI), including warning signs in local language and informing potentially affected persons or communities in advance When there is no other information, minimum restricted entry interval is 48 hours for WHO class II products and 12 hours for other products. When two or more products with different restricted entry intervals are used at the same time, the longest interval applies. Volume and dosage calculation methods are reviewed and refined to reduce the surplus mix and pesticide overuse. Pre-harvest intervals of pesticides as stipulated in the product's MSDS, label or security tag or regulation by official organization are complied with. When two or more products with different pre-harvest intervals are used at the same time, the longest interval applies.	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.6.6	Mechanisms are in place to prevent contamination by pesticides, through spray drift or other means, from treated areas to other areas including all aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and infrastructure. These mechanisms include non-crop vegetative barriers, non-application zones, or other effective measures.	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.6.7	Aerial application is only allowed under the conditions as outlined in the Farming Annex. *Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA –Farming Annex*	✓	✓	✓	✓

Read the requirements and their applicability before you move on to the next page

4.6.5

Safe transportation to area of application

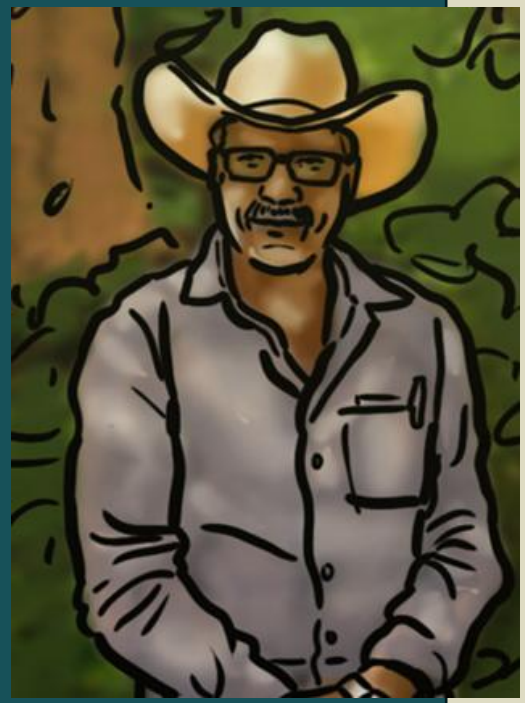


James, a manager of a large farm part of a group needs to make sure the transportation of any solutions to the area of application should be done according to **the label, material safety data sheet (MSDS), or security tag**.

If he cannot find this information, he needs to follow the recommendation of an official national organization or a competent technician.

4.6.5

Respecting the correct dosage, volumes, equipment, application techniques and weather



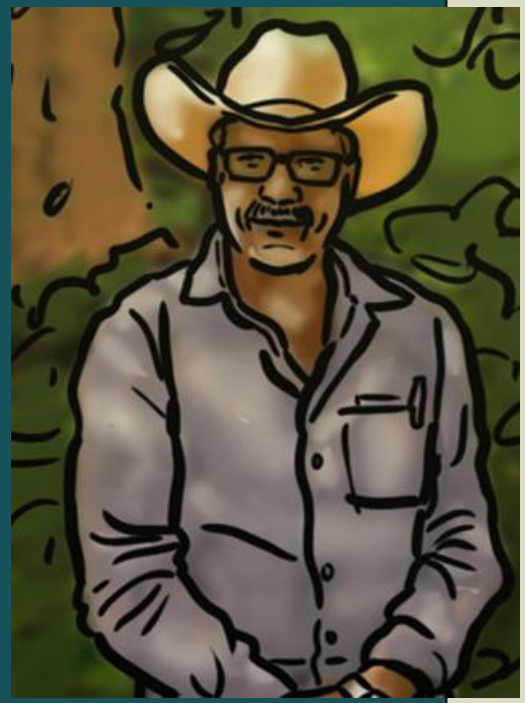
Following **the label**, **MSDS**, or **security tag**, James needs to ensure;

- The correct dosage and volume (calculation methods are reviewed and refined to reduce surplus mix and pesticide overuse)
- Appropriate equipment and application techniques
- Appropriate weather conditions for application

He should avoid application when the sun is very strong, raining or very windy.

4.6.5

Restricted Entry Intervals (REI)



As part of requirement 4.6.5 James also needs to respect **restricted entry intervals (REI)**.

This is the **time period when nobody can enter the field** where the agrochemical has been applied without the appropriate PPE.

This information should be communicated:

- Informing affected persons and communities in advance.
- Placing **warning signs in the local language**.

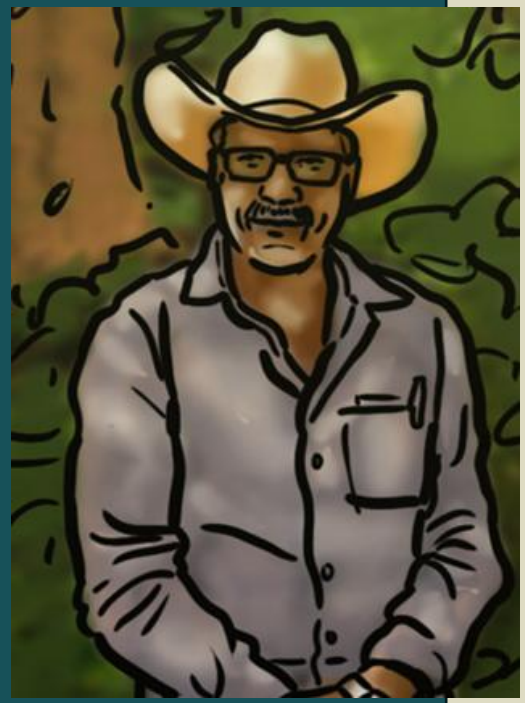
If label, MSDS or security tag does not contain

information on REI:

- 48 hours for agrochemicals classified as WHO class II
- 12 hours for other products

4.6.5

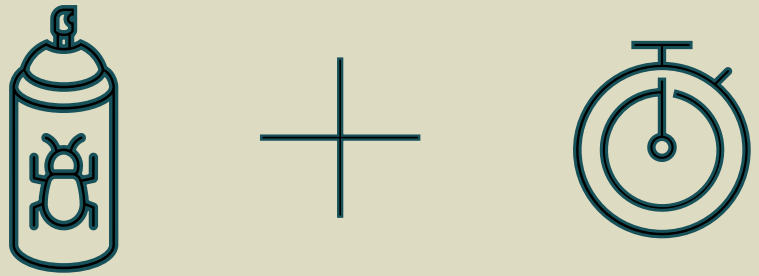
Pre-harvest intervals



Finally, James needs to respect **pre-harvest intervals** stipulated in the product's label, MSDS or security tag.

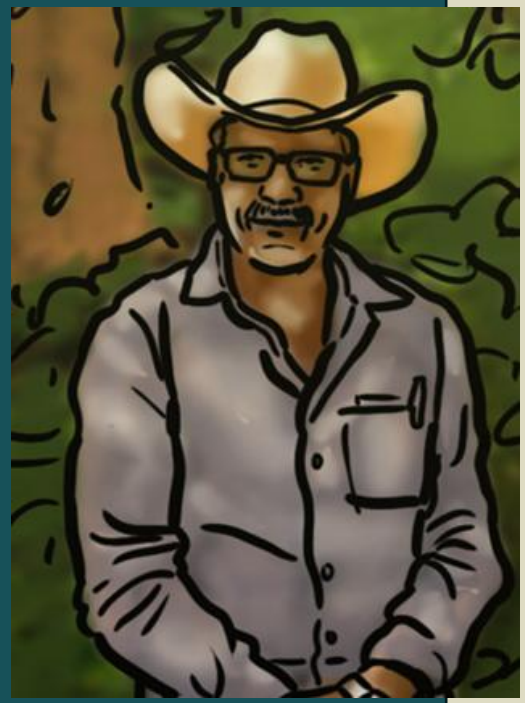
The pre-harvest interval is the **waiting period after the application** of an agrochemical. James must wait until after this period until he can harvest the crop.

If he uses two or more products with different pre-harvest intervals, the **longest interval applies**.



4.6.6

Mechanisms to prevent contamination

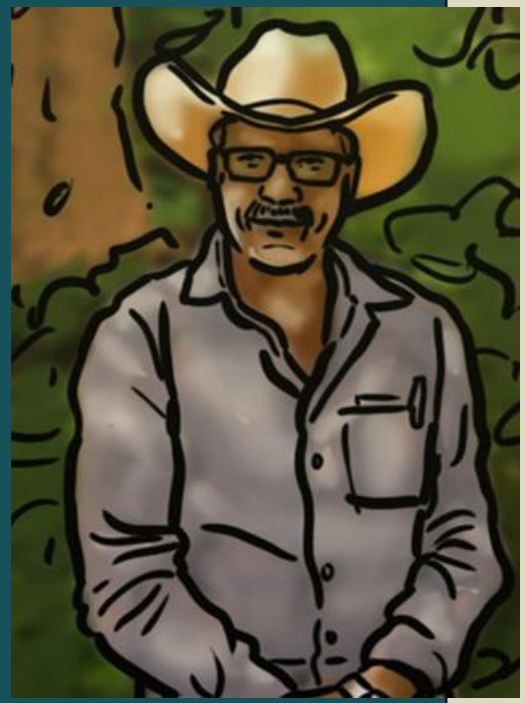


James needs to have established and maintain mechanisms to avoid contamination by pesticides.

What can he do to avoid spray drift or other means of contamination?

- He can establish **non-application zones**. In these zones, pests are controlled by non-chemical methods.

4.6.6

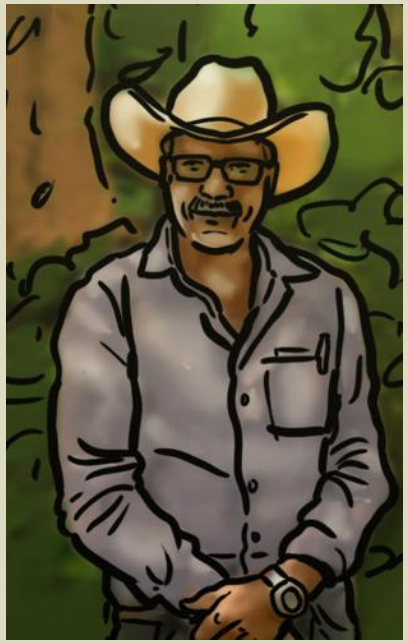


He can also establish vegetative barriers with shrubs and trees that have **permanent foliage** that can capture pesticide drifts from applications. The shrubs and trees must be **as high as the crop.**

To protect water sources from spray drift, he can establish **riparian buffers.**

Case scenario

Let's look at an example.



James has a pineapple farm and has established vegetive barriers that are higher than the crop. However, the farm has not established non-application zones. His sprayers have sprayed the entire crop with an insecticide called Cypermethrin.

?

Does this farm comply with the requirement 4.6.6?

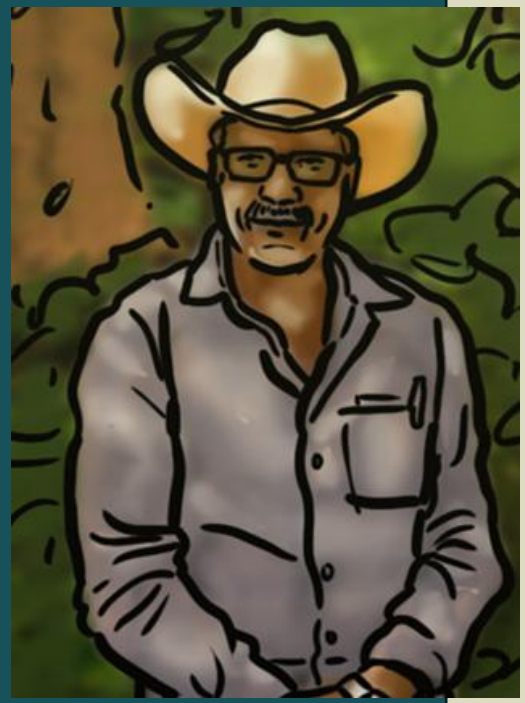
Think about the answer before you move on to the next page

Case scenario - Solution

The answer is “Yes.” The farm has not established non-application zones, but it has **established vegetative barriers that can effectively prevent spray drift**. Therefore, it meets the requirement.

4.6.7

Aerial application



Aerial application is only allowed under the conditions outlined in the Farming Annex.

Please see: Farming Annex

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

rainforest-alliance.org