

Merced County Permit Conditions for Rice

Introduction

This document provides permit conditions for pesticide applications to rice.

About this section

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Section D.1

Instructions to County Agricultural Commissioners on Rice Pesticide Permit Issuance

Introduction

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), in cooperation with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), developed recommended permit conditions to meet water quality management objectives for Malathion and Thiobencarb. These conditions reflect management practices required by current Board Resolution. DPR and CVRWQCB believe that use of these permit conditions will meet water quality management objectives for these rice pesticides.

Approved resolution

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) approved resolution is available for review at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/adopted_orders/index.html

Rice Pesticide Water Monitoring and Annual Reporting

CRC responsibility

The rice industry, via the California Rice Commission (CRC), will be responsible for leadership in water monitoring, annual reporting to the CVRWQCB, and coordinating the participation of all program stakeholders.

- The rice industry is ultimately responsible for meeting water quality objectives.
 - DPR, as a co-regulator with the water boards, will continue to use its authority to regulate the sales and use of pesticides to address water quality issues involving pesticides. DPR will continue to actively participate with CVRWQCB and the rice industry staff to address rice pesticide issues.
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Instructions to County Agricultural Commissioners on Rice Pesticide Permit Issuance, Continued

Seepage Mitigation Requirements

Seepage defined For purposes of mitigating seepage in rice production:

- Seepage is lateral movement of irrigation water through a rice field levee or border to an area outside the normally flooded production area. Seepage can occur through levees into adjacent dry fields or into adjacent drains and canals.

Seepage documentation DPR requests that county agricultural commissioners (CACs) continue monitoring for seepage when inspecting for water-holding compliance by:

- Checking for seepage, or collection of seepage, that occurs through the outer borders of a field or the bottom border located at the lowest part of the field.
- Using the water-holding inspection logs to document seepage observations. The Pesticide Use Monitoring Inspection Form (PR-ENF-104) may also be used to document seepage observations. Indicate “water-hold inspection” on the blank line under “application inspection.”
- Document in the “Remarks” section on either form: Seepage flow less than five gallons per minute, or seepage flow more than five gallons per minute.

Enforcement action Any visible seepage moving offsite during the water-holding period that drains into the waters of the State is considered an early release and is a water-holding violation. An enforcement action should be taken in accordance with 3 CCR section 6128.

Brochure Please continue to distribute the brochure, *Seepage Water Management, Voluntary Guidelines for Good Stewardship in Rice Production*, Publication 21568, to growers at the time of permit issuance.

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Instructions to County Agricultural Commissioners on Rice Pesticide Permit Issuance, Continued

Drift Minimization Requirements

Mitigation measures

- DPR will provide “focused” oversight inspection of thiobencarb aerial applications to monitor thiobencarb drift mitigation requirements.
 - DPR recommends all rice pesticide permits be conditioned with *General Drift Minimization* restrictions.
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Thiobencarb Drift Mitigation Requirements

Mandatory preseason thiobencarb stewardship training (applies to Sacramento Valley counties only)

- (*Mandatory Preseason Thiobencarb Stewardship Training* information has been revised and moved to Section D.5, *Thiobencarb*, page D-17.)
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Instructions to County Agricultural Commissioners on Rice Pesticide Permit Issuance, Continued

General Information

New Thiobencarb product – League[®] MVP

A new Thiobencarb product – League[®] MVP Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 59639-189-AA, a granular formulation – is registered for use on rice for the 2014 rice pesticide use season. Its active ingredients are 10% Thiobencarb and 0.43% Imazosulfuron. Please note that the new product has the same water holding period as Bolero[®] UltraMax – 30 days – and the Thiobencarb recommended permit conditions apply to the new product.

Malathion water management recommendations

CVRWQCB has approved a water management practice for malathion applied to rice that will help meet water quality performance goals for malathion in surface water. Malathion is currently not a restricted material and not subject to permit conditions. However, it is important that growers comply with the following water management practice:

- **All water from fields treated with pesticides containing malathion should be retained on the site of application or contained within a tailwater recovery system, or other system, adequate to prevent discharge to waters of the State for at least four days following application.**
-

Storm Event Work Group

The Communication Plan developed by the Storm Event Work Group will be utilized in the event of a severe storm occurrence. The Storm Event Work Group will continue to meet as needed. Currently, the work group is comprised of staff from the Regional Water Board, DPR, University of California, a reclamation district representative, CACs, and the rice industry. The California Rice Commission will take the lead in facilitating this group.

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Merced County Permit Conditions for Rice Pesticides, Continued

One-page summary

Table A¹ summarizes the water-holding permit conditions for thiobencarb. This summary can be used as a quick reference. Please refer to the specific permit conditions and pesticide labeling for a complete explanation of the requirements.

Topic	See Table
Rice Pesticides Water Management Requirements Summary (Water-holding permit conditions for malathion and thiobencarb)	A

Emergency release forms

Form A is used for an emergency release request. Form B is used for reporting the emergency release. These DPR-suggested forms may be reproduced under county letterhead.

Topic	See Form
Rice Pesticides Water Management Requirements, Emergency Release Request Form	Form A
Rice Pesticides Water Management Requirements, Emergency Release Report Form	Form B

Continued on next page

¹ Formerly Table B

Table A

Note: Amended – deleted Bolero® 15 G (no longer registered in California) and added League® MVP.

Rice Pesticides Water Management Requirements Summary

Water must be held for the indicated number of 24-hour periods on the treated field, or within the containment area specified below before release into State waters.		Thiobencarb		Thiobencarb Plus Imazosulfuron	
		Bolero® UltraMax	Abolish® 8 EC	League® MVP	Malathion
		Hold	Hold	Hold	Hold
N O R T H S A C V A L L E Y	Single treated fields.	30	19	30	4 (b)
	Release into tailwater recovery system or ponded onto fallow land or contained in other systems appropriate for preventing discharge.	19	19	19	
	System controlled by one permittee, then water may be discharged into the system in manner consistent with product labeling.	14	14	14	
	System includes drainage from more than one permittee, then water must be retained on site.	6	6	6	
	Water on fields within bounds of areas that discharge negligible amounts of drainage onto perennial streams. Commissioner must evaluate such sites and verify the hydrologic isolation of the fields.	6	6	6	
	CAC may authorize emergency release of tailwater.	19	19	19	
S O U T H S A C & S J V A L L E Y (a)	All water on treated fields must be retained on the treated fields.	19	19	19	4 (b)
	Release into tailwater recovery system or ponded onto fallow land or contained in other systems appropriate for preventing discharge.	19	19	19	
	System controlled by one permittee, then water may be discharged in manner consistent with product labeling.	14	14	14	
	System includes drainage from more than one permittee, then water must be retained on site.	6	6	6	
	Water on fields within bounds of areas that discharge negligible amounts of drainage onto perennial streams. Commissioner must evaluate such sites and verify the hydrologic isolation of the fields.	6	6	6	
	CAC may authorize emergency release of tailwater.	19	19	19	

(a) – South Sacramento & San Joaquin Valley defined as: South of the line defined by Roads E10 and 116 in Yolo County and the American River in Sacramento County.

(b) – Voluntary hold.

FORM A

RICE PESTICIDES WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, Emergency Release Request Form

Thiobencarb

Grower: _____ Permit No.: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Field Location: _____ Site No.: _____

Chemical applied: _____

Chemical applied: _____

Rate of application: _____

Rate of application: _____

Date of application: _____

Date of application: _____

Average water depth
at time of application: _____

Average water depth
at time of application: _____

Starting date of emergency release: _____

Acres treated in field: _____ Laser leveled: Yes _____ No _____

Type of irrigation system: _____ Flow through _____ Recycle _____ Static _____ Other _____

Date flooding began: _____ No. of days it takes to fill field: _____

Describe problem that led to emergency release: _____

Steps that can be taken to prevent emergency releases from this field in future years: _____

Recommendation by (attached): _____

Applications by: _____

Grower's signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Agricultural Biologist

Section D.2

Data Reporting Guidelines for the Rice Pesticide Program

Introduction This document outlines the data reporting guidelines for the Rice Pesticide Program.

Pesticide Use Reporting procedures Follow your normal download and submittal practices (i.e., via e-mail) when electronically sending pesticide use report (PUR) data to DPR. Please send your rice PUR data to DPR's **Pest Management and Licensing Branch** in a timely manner so this data can be compiled and summarized for the annual report.

California Rice Commission report preparation The California Rice Commission (CRC) will submit a routine information request¹ to each rice-growing county for inspection data, and compliance and enforcement action data. The CRC will contact DPR to obtain the PUR data.

The CRC will use the data to prepare the annual report required by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) by December 31 of each year.

Reporting inspection, compliance, and enforcement action data The California Rice Commission will request the following inspection, compliance, and enforcement action data. You may continue to use Form C, the *Annual Rice Reporting Information* form that follows.

For **thiobencarb** (Bolero[®] UltraMax, Abolish[®] 8EC, League[®] MVP), report the number of:

- Mix/load inspections
 - Application inspections
 - Water hold inspections
 - Release inquiries
 - Emergency releases
 - Water seepage inspections apply only to Sacramento Valley Rice Growing Counties
 - Non-compliance inspections
 - Agricultural civil penalties (ACPs)
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¹ The California Rice Commission began obtaining this information directly from the rice-growing counties starting in 2009.

Data Reporting Guidelines for the Rice Pesticide Program, Continued

Reporting seepage inspection data

When conducting thiobencarb seepage inspections, please characterize the amount of seepage observed during the inspection as: “no seepage,” “less than five gallons of seepage,” or “more than five gallons of seepage.” Use the *Annual Rice Reporting Information* form that follows; enter the number of sites with:

- No seepage
 - Less than five gallons of seepage
 - More than five gallons of seepage.
-

Mail, e-mail, or fax the data

Please mail, e-mail, or fax the inspection and compliance/enforcement action data requested above by **September 30** to:

Roberta Firoved
Industry Affairs Manager
California Rice Commission
1231 I Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone: (916) 387-2264
e-mail: rfiroved@calrice.org
fax: (916) 387-2265

“Completed” water-holding enforcement actions to CVRWQCB

Additionally, at the request of the CVRWQCB, please send all “completed” water-holding enforcement actions within 30 days after enforcement action is completed to:

Rice Pesticide Program
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

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FORM C

ANNUAL RICE REPORTING INFORMATION

County: _____

Acres of Rice Planted: _____

INSPECTION TYPES																
CHEMICALS	* A C P	APPLICA- TIONS		MIX/ LOAD		RELEASE INQUIRIES		EMERGENCY RELEASES		WATER HOLD		WATER SEEPAGE **				
		#	N/C	#	N/C	#	N/C	#	N/C	#	N/C	#	N/C	# of Sites w/ No Seepage	# of Sites w/ Less Than 5 Gallons	# of Sites w/ More Than 5 Gallons
BOLERO® UltraMax																
ABOLISH® 8EC																
LEAGUE® MVP																
Totals																

Please send the above information to the **California Rice Commission** by e-mail to rfiroved@calrice.org; by fax at (916) 387-2265; or by mail to 1231 I Street, Suite 205, Sacramento, California 95814 by **September 30th** of each year.

* Administrative Civil Penalty

** Sacramento Valley Rice counties only

Section D.3

General Water-Holding

- I. The following seepage control requirements apply to all rice pesticides having mandatory water-holding requirements such as thiobencarb, etc. Non-compliance with seepage requirements is considered a water-holding violation.
 - A. Rice pesticides, such as thiobencarb, shall not be applied to rice fields exhibiting visible water seepage that moves offsite into drains that are considered state waters.
 - B. Borders surrounding each rice field shall be compacted before water is allowed to fill the field; the degree of compaction shall be sufficient to prevent water from seeping through the border. For example, compaction may be achieved by driving the tires or tracks of a tractor, or other heavy vehicle, on one side of the border.
 - C. This requirement applies to new or reworked existing borders for the current rice season.
 - D. A common border between two existing rice fields does not need to be compacted.
-

Section D.5

Thiobencarb

**Mandatory
preseason
thiobencarb
stewardship
training by the
California Rice
Commission**

- Mandatory preseason thiobencarb stewardship training applies only to thiobencarb restricted material permit holders located in the Sacramento Valley rice-growing counties.
 - Restricted material permits shall not be issued to growers who have not received California Rice Commission certification that they attended a preseason thiobencarb stewardship training session that year.
 - The county agricultural commissioner may certify a grower that did not attend a thiobencarb stewardship training session by having them view a presentation of the current preseason thiobencarb stewardship training session.
-

Drift Minimization

- I. All liquid formulations of Thiobencarb shall not be applied by air in Colusa and Glenn Counties starting North of Highway 20 and West of the Sacramento River.
- II. The use of Bolero 10G formulation is prohibited in the Sacramento Valley rice growing counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba.
- III. In the Sacramento Valley rice growing counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba, no aerial applications shall be made or continued within ½ mile of the Sacramento or Feather Rivers unless there is a continuous positive airflow away from the river.
- IV. In the Sacramento Valley rice growing counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba, no aerial application shall be made or continued within ½ mile of the Sacramento or Feather Rivers when the wind speed exceeds seven miles per hour.
- V. In Sacramento and Yolo Counties, no aerial applications shall be made or continued within ¼ mile of the Sacramento River unless they are made under the direct supervision of the county agricultural commissioner's representative.
- VI. In Sacramento and Yolo Counties, the maximum acres treated by air each day within ¼ mile of the Sacramento River shall not exceed 33 percent of the average acres treated per day by air within this area in each county during 2002.

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Thiobencarb, Continued

Water Management

I. The following water holding requirements apply to rice fields treated with thiobencarb in the Sacramento Valley (north of the line defined by Roads E10 and 116 in Yolo County and the American River in Sacramento County), except those treated with Abolish® 8EC:

A. Except as listed below, all water on treated fields must be retained on the treated fields for at least 30 days following application. When drainage begins, discharge must not exceed two inches of water over a drain box weir for seven additional days. Unregulated discharges from these fields may then begin after 37 days.

1. When water is contained within a tailwater recovery system, ponded on fallow land, or contained in other systems appropriate for preventing discharge, the water must be retained in the system for 19 days, unless:

(a) The system is under the control of one permittee, then water may be discharged from the application site in a manner consistent with product labeling (14-day water hold).

(b) The system includes drainage from more than one permittee, then water must be retained on the site of application for six days before being discharged from the application site into the system.

(c) Water is on fields within the bounds of areas that discharge negligible amounts of rice field drainage into perennial streams until fields are drained for harvest. Water-hold may be reduced to six days if the commissioner evaluates such sites and verifies the hydrologic isolation of the fields.

II. Rice fields treated with thiobencarb in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Valley (south of the line defined by Roads E10 and 116 in Yolo County and the American River in Sacramento County), except those treated with Abolish® 8EC:

A. Except as listed below, all water on treated fields must be retained on the treated fields for at least 19 days following application. When drainage begins, water discharge must not exceed two inches of water over a drain box weir for an additional seven days. Unregulated discharges from these fields may begin after 26 days.

Continued on next page

Thiobencarb, Continued

1. When water is contained within a tailwater recovery system, ponded on fallow land, or contained in other systems appropriate for preventing discharge, the system may discharge 19 days following the last application of thiobencarb within the system unless:
 - (a) The system is under the control of one permittee, then water may be discharged from the application site in a manner consistent with product labeling (14-day water-hold period).
 - (b) The system includes drainage from more than one permittee, then water must be retained on the site of application for six days before discharged from the application site into the system.
 - (c) Water is on fields within the bounds of areas that discharge negligible amounts of rice field drainage into perennial streams until fields are drained for harvest. Water-hold may be reduced to six days, if the commissioner evaluates such sites and verifies the hydrologic isolation of the fields.

III. All areas, fields treated with Abolish® 8EC:

- A. Except as listed below, all water on treated fields must be retained on the treated fields for at least 19 days following application. When drainage begins, water discharge must be released at a volume not to exceed two inches of water over a drain box weir for an additional seven days. Unregulated discharges from these fields may begin after 26 days.
 1. For water contained within a tailwater recovery system, ponded on fallow land, or contained in other systems appropriate for preventing discharge, the system may discharge 19 days following the last application within the system unless:
 - (a) The system is under the control of one permittee, then water may be discharged from the application site in a manner consistent with product labeling (14-day water-hold period).
 - (b) The system includes drainage from more than one permittee, then water must be retained on the site of application for six days before discharged from the application site into the system.
 - (c) Water is on fields within the bounds of areas that discharge negligible amounts of rice field drainage into perennial streams until fields are drained for harvest, then water-hold may be reduced to six days if the commissioner evaluates such sites and verifies the hydrologic isolation of the fields.

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Thiobencarb, Continued

IV. Emergency release requirements (Salinity damage):

The county agricultural commissioner may authorize the emergency release of field water after a minimum 19-day water-hold period after the last thiobencarb application, following the review of a written application that demonstrates salinity levels are damaging to the crop.

- A. Applicants for such emergency releases must provide the following information:
1. All information indicated on the emergency release request (Form A), including a description of the severity and extent of salinity damage.
 2. Electrical conductivity (EC) measurements, expressed as deciSiemens per meter (dS/m) or microSiemens per centimeter ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), from field water in each paddy suspected of having salinity problems. To most effectively demonstrate salinity problems, measurements should be taken wherever salinity problems are evident.
 3. The instrument (make and model) used to determine EC measurements. The instrument must have a sensitivity range that accommodates the full range of EC values in intake and paddy water (usually a range of 0-5.0 dS/m or 0-5,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ should be sufficient) and should have a resolution of not less than five percent. The instrument must be calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions. The applicant must specify the method of temperature compensation (i.e., automatic, conversion table).
 4. Who made the EC measurements.
 5. The source of irrigation water (e.g., district supply canal, drainage canal, well, etc.).
- B. An emergency release may be granted only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
1. All required information is provided.
 2. Water management requirements for rice pesticides other than thiobencarb are satisfied.
 3. EC of paddy water exceeds 2.0 dS/m or 2,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.
 4. The county agricultural commissioner or his/her staff inspects the site.
- C. Water may be released from paddies where EC measurements exceed 2.0 dS/m or 2,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and from paddies down gradient from such paddies within the same field. Water shall only be released in an amount necessary to mitigate the salinity problem.
- D. Those issued an emergency release must submit to the county agricultural commissioner, a report (Form B) indicating the time and duration of the emergency release and data that can be used to calculate the total amount of water released during the emergency release.
-