

Guidance for Using Global Positioning System (GPS) Coordinates to Record Locations under the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Regulations

Your goal when recording the location of a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) application is to be able to identify the exact area of the application 2 years later if requested. One of your options for achieving that goal includes an identification system utilizing maps, GPS coordinates and/or written descriptions which accurately identifies the location.

Using GPS Coordinates to record location:

- Creating a Map: A map of the treated area generated for GPS coordinates clearly fits the location requirements for the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Regulations.
- Listing GPS Coordinates to Delineate a Field: Recording all the GPS coordinates that designate a field treated with a RUP is an acceptable method under the regulations.
- Recording a Single GPS Coordinate: A single GPS coordinate may be used to designate a field that was treated with a RUP if it is clear that one coordinate accurately identifies the field. The single coordinate should be followed by a brief statement indicating the relationship of the point to the treated area.

Keeping Electronic Records:

An electronic copy of the map or coordinates is acceptable. It is suggested that if electronic storage of maps/GPS coordinates are standard practice, then an electronic back up copy should be made. Remember, should the electronic file be corrupted or lost, the applicator would be in violation of the regulations for not keeping the record the required 2 year time frame.

For additional information about the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program:

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