



**Nonimmigrant Foreign Workers  
Pesticide Licensing and Social Security Numbers**

October 22, 2020

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, federal facilities, including Social Security Offices may be closed or have limited hours. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is aware of delays in the issuance of Social Security Numbers (or equivalent) to some nonimmigrant foreign workers, such as H-2A temporary agricultural workers<sup>1</sup>. A Social Security Number (or equivalent) is required as part of the application for most pesticide licenses. However, to ensure that this delay does not impact certain critical pesticide-related work activities that require an Oregon applicator's license, ODA is implementing the following interim measure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**New Temporary Interim Measure During COVID-19 Pandemic**

For those affected by the delay described above and as an interim measure, in lieu of a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)<sup>2</sup>, ODA will accept one of the following written statements.

- A written statement from the license applicant explaining why they do not have a SSN or ITIN.
- If the applicant is unable to provide the above statement, their employer may provide such a statement on their behalf.

An application will not be processed without a written statement, SSN or ITIN. Once you are issued your SSN or ITIN, you must submit the number to ODA.

**Existing Requirements (Unchanged)**

Because of federal and state laws, if you have a Social Security Number, you must provide this information on the pesticide license application form, when requested. If you do not qualify for a SSN and you have an ITIN instead, you must provide this number on the pesticide license application form. In both of these situations, a written statement will not be accepted.

For additional information, please contact the ODA Pesticide Program:

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/programs/h-2a>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/foreign-agricultural-workers>