Top Frequently Asked Questions

What You Need to Know About the Endangered Species Act

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This is an evolving regulation — not a one-time change.

EPA is adding ESA requirements directly to pesticide labels, impacting how, when and where products are applied.

FAQ'S

1. What is changing — and why does it matter?

Environmental Protection Agency is adding new ESA-related requirements directly onto pesticide labels. These requirements can change where, when and how you apply certain products. Because these changes are ongoing, growers must check labels more frequently and follow the new mitigation measures to stay compliant and protect access to key chemistries.

2. Will this keep changing, and where should I go for the latest information?

Yes. ESA requirements will continue to evolve as EPA updates labels and endangered species maps.

To stay compliant, rely on:

- The pesticide label (always the law)
- BulletinsLive!Two (also the law if mandated by label)
- EPA tools such as run off and drift mitigation tables
- Industry resources like CPDA

Because all pesticides are re-registered every 15 years, label requirements will continue to change over time.

3. What does ESA mean at the farm level?

You'll need to check labels and BulletinLive!Two is applicable more frequently and understand how to manage buffer zones and run off mitigation (points) to keep your acres compliant.

You may need to:

- Use drift-reducing practices and approved Drift Reduction Agents/adjuvants at 2.5% v/v
- Evaluate runoff points requirements for your application (field, products, month of application) and applicable mitigation measures
- Check endangered species maps before application (BulletinLive!Two)
- Follow new buffer zones
- Adjust application timing or field edges

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Goal: Reduce off-target movement, protect listed species and keep your acres in production.

4. Are ESA requirements the same on every pesticide label?

No. Each label may have different mitigation measures, buffer distances or approved DRAs. Always follow the specific label for the product you're applying.

5. What is a buffer zone, and how does it affect my acres?

A buffer zone is an area that cannot be sprayed. This is a requirement to minimize the risk of the pesticide contacting the endangered species or its habitat. There are many things that can mitigate the need for buffer areas or reduce the size of the buffer zone. Using DRA adjuvants at 2.5% v/v can reduce the size of the buffer zone and in certain cases eliminate the need for the buffer zone.

6. Where do I find updated information and endangered species maps?

- EPA Bulletins Live! Two (required for many labels)
- CPDA ESA/DRA Resource Center: CPDA.com/esa-dra-campaign/
- State regulatory agencies and extension updates

These tools show whether your field falls within an ESA-restricted area.

7. Can adjuvants and DRAs help with ESA requirements?

Yes. EPA allows oil-emulsion adjuvants at 2.5% v/v to reduce drift and help meet ESA mitigation drift requirements. Using the correct DRA can reduce buffer distances and protect more acres.

8. Will using a DRA or adjuvant eliminate buffer zones completely?

No. DRAs can reduce buffer distances but can't remove them entirely. They are one part of a broader mitigation system that includes nozzle selection, boom height, wind speed, and application timing.

9. Are the DRAs I already use approved for ESA applications?

Not necessarily. Only DRAs specifically listed on the pesticide label qualify. Some older polymer or guar-based DRAs may no longer be approved — especially for dicamba. Always read and follow pesticide label instructions.

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10. Is this only about herbicides?

Currently Oil Emulsion DRA's at 2.5% v/v can be used to mitigate off-target movement of herbicides.

It may be expanded to other types of pesticides going forward.

11. Besides drift reduction, what else do adjuvants help with?

- Better coverage
- Improved deposition
- Drift control
- More consistent spray performance
- Penetration
- Water conditioning

12. How do the recent changes with Dicamba impact ESA applications?

2026 requirements include:

- VRA rate was doubled (40 oz)
- Oil-emulsion DRAs only
- Stricter drift control rules
- Updated ESA mitigation steps
- More frequent Bulletins Live! Two checks

Notable AIs that will be required to undergo new ESA regulations in the next 5 years (fungicides, insecticides and herbicides)

2,4-D
Acephate
Acetamiprid
Atrazine
Chlorothalonil
Clothianidin
Dicamba
Diuron
Fipronil
Glyphosate
Imidacloprid
Malathion
Mancozeb
Metolachlor (S-metolachlor)
Metribuzin
Pendimethalin
Plinazolin Insecticide: Opello, Vertento, Zivalgo, Vykenda
Propanil
Propiconazole
Tebuconazole
Tetraconazole
Thiamethoxam
Trifluralin
Pyrethrin & derivatives
Carbaryl
Chlorpyrifos
Diazinon
Fluometuron
Thiobencarb
Thiophanate-methyl (carbendazim)

What's Coming in 2026 & Beyond

- More active ingredients entering re-registration
- Up to 1,100 products potentially impacted by ESA buffer requirements
- Continued updates across herbicides, insecticides and fungicides
- 2026 = readiness, not panic