The Agricultural Handlers Exposure Task Force (AHETF) discovered some improper practices that caused unnecessary exposure to mixer/loaders using Water Soluble Packaging (WSP). The AHETF reported their findings and presented the EPA with a list of best management practices to help minimize exposure caused by these improper practices. Currently, EPA is planning to initiate the revision of all WSP product labels for products use in mix tank. Mixing instructions reflect proposed label language.

WHY USE PRODUCTS IN WSP?
- Proper use of WSP can significantly reduce pesticide exposure to handlers.
- When used properly, WSP is considered a closed system under the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard [40 CFR 170.607(d)].

IMPROPER USE PRACTICES
These practices can sometimes cause exposure:
- Placing WSP in Mixing Tank Basket (Figure 2)
- Spraying water on WSP in basket
- Breaking WSP in mix tank
- Adding WSP after loading fertilizer or other pesticide(s)
- Using damaged WSP

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS
- Mix in spray tank only.
- Handle WSP(s) in a manner that protects the package from breakage and/or unintended release of contents. If package is broken, put on PPE required for clean-up and then continue with mixing instructions.
- Keep the WSP(s) in outer packaging until just before use.
- Keep the WSP dry prior to adding to the spray tank.
- Handle with dry gloves and according to the label instructions for PPE.
- Keep WSP intact. Do not cut or puncture WSP.
- Reseal the WSP outer packaging to protect any unused WSP(s).

Figure 1: Water Soluble Packaging.  
http://www.greenpack.fr/an/prestation.htm

Figure 2: Mixing tank basket

Additional Resources:  
For more information on the Agricultural Handlers Exposure Task Force, see http://www.exposuretf.com/  
For more information on Worker Protection Standards (including Closed System Specifics), see http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety  
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