

Record keeping

Pest Control Operators (PCOs) are licensed and regulated by the Department of Human Services under the *Health Act 1958* and the **Health (Pest Control) Regulations 2002**. Licensing of the pest control industry is designed to protect PCOs, consumers, members of the public, and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of pesticides.

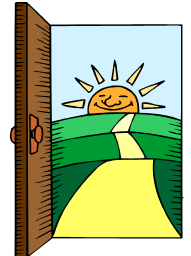
The purpose of this Technical Note is to inform PCOs of the records that should be kept for **every** application of pesticide.



For every application of pesticide the PCO should record:

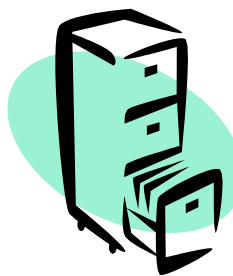
1. The full **name** of the pesticide, for example: "Baytex 550 Insecticide Spray 250mL".
2. The **date** and **time** it was used.
3. The **place** (address or location) where the pesticide was used, and the **areas** that were treated.
4. The **name** and **address** of the person for whom the work was carried out (for example: the owner, manager, lessee or occupant of the land that was treated).
5. The **purposes** for which it was used. Record the pest to be controlled.
6. The total **volume** and **application rate** of the pesticide **used** for each job.
7. The **name** and **licence number** of the person who applied the pesticide, and the name and licence number of the supervisor if applicable.
8. The type of **vegetation** in the area being treated. Make note of any plants in the area that could be adversely affected by the pesticide (for example: vegetable gardens, roses, grass, seedlings or fruit trees).

9. The **weather** conditions at the time of application, including **temperature, wind direction and speed**. See the notes on weather conditions on the following page.



10. Any relevant **permit** (number) issued. If PCOs have obtained a special permit to use the pesticide, or use it in a way other than that permitted on the label, they should record the permit number and brief specific details of the changes made to the application procedure. This usually applies to the use of Schedule 7 pesticides.
11. The **method** of application, including the name or type of the **equipment** used. PCOs must also record the registration number of their vehicle.
12. On every record the **statement** "I certify that this is a true and accurate record of pesticide application", should appear and be signed and dated by the person in the business of pest control.
13. The **name** and **address** of the business or person **supplying** the chemical product.
14. The **batch number** and, where applicable, the **expiry date** of the chemical product.
15. Any **specific written precautions** received with the chemical product in addition to the product label.
16. Any **withholding period**.

All records should be kept at the business address for three (3) years. They should be accurate, up to date, clear, coherent, consistent, and in English.



PCOs must keep records for **each** pesticide used at a job. For example, if using Cislin and Talon at the same job, PCOs must complete all the relevant information for Cislin and all the relevant information for Talon.

Pesticide application record template

Attached is a template of a pesticide application record sheet, which PCOs may use or adapt. If businesses already use a record sheet, PCOs must make sure it contains all the sections that are covered by the template, for each pesticide used. There is also an example of a completed record sheet available on the pest control website:

www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol

Weather conditions

The Pest Control Program receives a considerable number of complaints from the public with regard to spray drift. Spray drift raises issues with occupational and public health. These issues include specific physical health problems, drinking water contamination, smell and air pollution concerns, general uncertainty and anxiety caused by the drift, and concern over pet animal health. Environmental issues include contamination of water sources, land, plants and animal feed.



Spray and particulate drift include drift of chemical pesticides in granular, powder, dust or spray form. Some chemicals should also be used with caution if they emit vapour drift.

Those at greatest risk of health problems associated with spray drift are Pest Control Operators themselves.

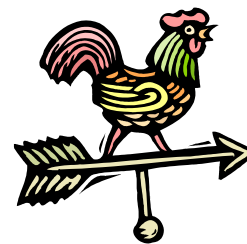
The atomiser and spray settings (such as pressure, flow rate, nozzle spray angle) influence the droplet size of the chemical being sprayed. Producing pesticide droplets smaller than 50µm - 100µm is not recommended, as these droplets are most likely to evaporate or drift.

Monitoring

- wind speed
- wind direction and
- temperature

should be a part of every job site risk assessment procedures.

In place of a wind-measuring instrument, PCOs can use the attached **Beaufort Wind Scale (BWS)** as a guide to assess the suitability of the weather conditions for spraying.



Remember to assess all aspects of the weather (for example: temperature, humidity and wind direction) when deciding if it is safe to spray pesticides.

If estimating the wind force using the BWS scale, PCOs should note this on the record.

An example of how to present the data:

BWS: Force 2 'light breeze from North East (NE).'

You should ALWAYS read and follow the label instructions.

Remember:

- If the environmental conditions change significantly during application, note the time and nature of the changes.
- Pesticides should not be applied if you notice drift occurring due to wind.
- If you notice wind blowing toward sensitive areas, postpone pesticide application until the wind stabilises and changes direction.
- High temperature and low humidity leads to faster evaporation of the spray droplet, increasing chances for drift. Loss of pesticide through evaporation and drift can reduce the effectiveness from that originally calculated.








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Beaufort Wind Scale

	Force & Strength	Description	Spray Notes
	0 <1km/hr <1 knot	Calm Smoke Rises Vertically	Avoid fine sprays, especially on sunny, warm days.
	1 1-5 km/hr 1-3 knots	Light Air Wind Direction Shown by smoke drift, not wind vanes	
	2 6-11 km/hr 4-6 knots	Light Breeze Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, wind vanes move by wind	Ideal spraying conditions
	3 12-19 km/hr 7-10 knots	Gentle Breeze Leaves and twigs in constant motion, wind extends a light flag	
	4 20-28 km/hr 11-16 knots	Moderate Breeze Raises dust and loose paper, small branches move	DO NOT attempt to apply pesticides under these conditions
	5 29-38 km/hr 17-21 knots	Fresh Breeze Small trees sway, crested wavelets form on inland waters	
	6 39-49 km/hr 22-27 knots	Strong Breeze Large branches move, umbrellas hard to use	
	7 50-61 km/hr 28-33 knots	Near Gale Whole trees move, breaks twigs off trees, difficulty walking against the wind.	
	8 62-74 km/hr 34-40 knots	Gale Breaks twigs off trees, generally impedes progress	
	9 75-88 km/hr 41-47 knots	Strong Gale Slight structural damage (eg. Chimney pots, roof tiles removed)	
	10 89-102 km/hr 48-55 knots	Storm Seldom inland, trees uprooted, considerable structural damage	

Pesticide Application Record Sheet

Job Date	Time Start	Time Finish
Pest Control Business Details	Name	
	Address	
Pest Control Operator Details	Name	Licence #
	Address	
	Vehicle Registration #	
Supervisor Details	Name	Supervisor Licence #
Client Details	Name	Telephone Number
	Postal / Contact Address	
Job/Site Details	Treated Address	
	Specific Area/s Treated	
	Treated Vegetation	
Pesticide Details	Chemical/Pesticide Product Name (in full)	
	Permit Number (if applicable)	
	Chemical Supplier Name	
	Chemical Supplier Address	
	Batch Number	Withholding Period
Application Rate Used	Target Pest/s	
Size of Area Treated	Method of Application	
Total Volume Required	Specific Equipment Used	
Total Amount of Product used (eg. concentrate, pellets, baits, dust/powder or gels)		
Weather Conditions	Estimated Wind Speed & Direction	<i>eg. BWS Force: Km/hr, N/NE Description,</i>
	Temperature °C	Weather Conditions <i>Eg. Rain, Dry, Humid</i>
<p><i>"I certify that this is a true and accurate record of pesticide application"</i> (Certified by the person in the business of pest control)</p>		
Signed	Name	Date