

# PEST CONTROL NEWSLETTER

Number 25

February 2009

**This newsletter informs licensed pest control operators (PCOs) about events that affect their industry.**

It is published quarterly by the Pest Control Program of the Department of Human Services (the program).

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Record Keeping
- Pest Management in Schools
- FAQ – Inspections

**PCOs are reminded that it is an offence to use or permit any other person to use pesticides for commercial gain in Victoria without an appropriate licence. Persons may be liable to be prosecuted under section 108C of the *Health Act 1958* if this requirement is breached.**

## RECORD KEEPING

A reminder to PCO's that for every application of pesticide you should record:

1. The full name of the pesticide.
2. The date and time it was used.
3. The place and area it was used along with details of the person applying the product.
4. The purpose of use (pest organism to be controlled).
5. Total volume applied and application rate.
6. Name, address and licence number of the person who applied the pesticide. Supervisor details if a trainee did the application.
7. Type of vegetation in area being treated.
8. Weather conditions at time of application.
9. Any relevant permit issued ie. NRA Schedule 7 pesticides.
10. Application method and equipment used.
11. Sign the statement "I certify that this is a true and accurate record of pesticide application".
12. Name and address of business/person supplying the chemical product.

13. Name and quantity of the chemical.

14. Batch number /expiry date of chemical product.

15. 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 years. They should be accurate, up to date, clear, coherent, consistent and in English.

## SEASONED SQUIRREL

Paramedics treated five people for eye problems after a man tried to force a squirrel out of his Rochester, New York house by spraying it with pepper spray. Firefighters put fans throughout the house to flush out the pepper-spray-filled air. "When the fire department went in and opened up all of the windows, the squirrel decided to leave," the fire chief said. "I guess he figured his work there was done."

## PEST MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority have developed an advisory booklet titled *Pest Management in Schools*. This booklet, published in August 2008, provides information and guidance regarding the safe and effective use of pesticides in this environment. It is intended for staff, students, parents, pest control operators, and the general public, and is available online at: <http://www.apvma.gov.au/users/downloads/schools.pdf>

## INSPECTIONS

The Pest Control Program conducts routine inspections of PCOs during the currency of their licence. In the coming months the focus will be on trainee licence holders and ensuring sufficient supervision. In particular, trainees for whom we have not received any trainee skills declaration forms will be inspected. This is a condition of the trainee licence for operating under indirect supervision.

Indirect supervision means that a trainee must apply pesticides within sight **or** hearing range of their supervisor at all times. This includes telephone or two-way radio contact with their supervisor.

## FAQS - INSPECTIONS

*Q – I am a PCO and have been selected for an inspection, what do I need to do?*

A – You are not required to do any pre-preparation for an inspection. An authorised officer of the program will negotiate a mutually suitable time and location with you and you will be advised of the areas to be inspected.

At the appointed time, you will be required to make your vehicle, equipment and records available for inspection and the officer will walk through the assessment with you. All recommendations made during the inspection will be provided in a post-inspection report highlighting any areas requiring improvement.

Licensed technicians with trainees under their supervision are encouraged to ensure that their trainees are present for the inspection.

*Q – What does an inspection involve?*

A – During the course of an inspection your vehicles, equipment and records will be inspected in addition to the knowledge and skills you have to perform pest control safely. Your knowledge and skills may be demonstrated (actually performed) or explained, depending on the situation.

*Q – Will I have to take time off work for an inspection?*

A – No. Inspections are designed to cause as little disruption to your work day as possible, with the authorised officer meeting you on the site of a scheduled job. It is recommended that you notify your client of the inspection.

*Q – How long will an inspection take?*

A – An inspection takes approximately two hours, however the length of an inspection will vary depending on each individual.

## ENQUIRIES

Please direct enquiries regarding information contained in this newsletter to:

Department of Human Services  
Pest Control Program  
GPO Box 4057  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Phone: 1300 887 090

Fax: 1300 881 765

Email: [pestcontrol@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:pestcontrol@dhs.vic.gov.au)

Website: [www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol)

## PEST CONTROL LICENSING WEBSITE

Information about pest control licensing is available online at:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol)

This includes:

- *Guidelines for pest control licensing in Victoria*

- *Guidelines for the safe use of pesticides in non-agricultural workplaces*
- Licence application forms
- Trainee skills declaration forms
- Change of contact details forms
- Technical notes and newsletters.

## SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

The program will consider articles submitted for inclusion in this newsletter. These must be of a non-commercial nature and limited to 150 words in length.

The information and views expressed in such articles represent those of the author and do not in any way reflect the views of the department.

The program reserves the right of refusal and the right to edit articles submitted.

## NEW REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF GLUE TRAPS AND OTHER RODENT TRAPS

Under the new Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008, the use of glue traps has been restricted. Glue traps must only be used by commercial pest control operators. They can only be used for trapping rodents and must be used in accordance with conditions set by the Minister for Agriculture. For further information please refer to the information sheet enclosed with this newsletter.



## Certificate III in asset Maintenance (Pest Management – Technical)

The new updated course is delivered entirely by motivated pest managers and leading industry representatives with a strong focus on practical "hands on" training.

NMIT also offers flexible delivery and online courses with the option for individuals to enrol in single course units.

*On campus courses begin in February 2009 and flexible delivery in March 2009.*

For enquiries please contact:  
Lance Holly Program Coordinator  
Pest Control NMIT Fairfield Campus  
Yarra Bend Rd Fairfield 3078  
Ph (03) 9269 8823  
Email: [lanceh-hrt@nmit.vic.edu.au](mailto:lanceh-hrt@nmit.vic.edu.au)

Published by RRHACS Division  
Victorian Government Department of Human Services  
Melbourne Victoria Australia  
February 2009

© Copyright State of Victoria, Department of Human Services, 2009.

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

Also published on [www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Printed on sustainable paper by  
Big Print

