Queensland Government
Queensland Health

Pest Management Newsletter

Newsletter 1 January 2005

Introduction

The *Pest Management Act 2001* (the Act) and the *Pest Management Regulation 2003* (the regulation) commenced in Queensland on 20 September 2003.

The main objective of the Act and regulation is to protect the Queensland public from the health risks associated with pest control activities and fumigation activities.

Licensing issues

On a positive note there has been a marked drop off in the number of applications that Queensland Health has had to return to pest management technicians (technicians) which were unable to be accepted and considered under the Act.

The main reasons for the return of documentation to technicians (particularly renewals and variation requests) is paperwork being submitted in the incorrect form, lodgement of incorrect fees or documents being received after the expiry date of the technician's licence.

Incorrect form or incorrect fee

The Act requires that applications, renewals and variations for pest management licences must be made to the chief executive:

- in the approved form
- accompanied by the prescribed fee.

Note: Payments made by cheque or money order must be made payable to ***Queensland Health.*** Payments made out to another name cannot be processed and will be returned to you.

From October 2004 new pest management application forms with Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted fees have been posted on the Queensland Health website. If you hold pest management forms as stock you should always check the website to make sure you have the most current form. Old stock should be discarded.

Renewals received after expiry

Renewals for pest management licences must be received by the chief executive **prior** to their expiry date.

If an application for a licence renewal is received after the licence's expiry date it cannot be accepted and will be returned to you.

You should ensure that, upon receipt of your licence renewal notice, you promptly return all necessary documentation (including the renewal form) to Queensland Health. Remember, if **you** don't submit your renewal form **we** can't renew your licence.

Variation of licence

There is a fee for varying a licence (currently $20.50). This fee is applicable even if the variation request is submitted in conjunction with a licence renewal. Variation of licence forms are available at the Queensland Health website listed on page 2 of this document.

> Don't risk a delay in varying your licence by sending in the wrong documents.

A Statement of Attainment or qualification (ie. qualification means full certificate with accompanying units of competency) from a registered training organisation (RTO) will be the only evidence of competence accepted.

An application to vary a licence which only has a result of assessment attached is not sufficient to proceed with the application.

> A full list of RTO's and courses/qualifications can be accessed from the National Training Information Service (NTIS) website, which is listed under *Useful Websites* in the Queensland Health website. You can also access the NTIS website direct at http://www.ntis.gov.au

Notifiable incidents

Queensland Health would like to thank the technicians and their employers who have given notice to the department regarding possible notifiable incidents since the commencement of the Act.

A *"notifiable incident"* means an exposure, spillage or other release of a pesticide or fumigant that adversely affects, or is likely to adverse affect, a person's health.

If you were not already aware, a technician must give the chief executive notice about a notifiable incident that occurs when the technician is carrying out or supervising the carrying out of a pest management activity.

Public Health Unit Environmental Health Services (PHU)

Inspectors appointed under the Act are located and contactable at the PHU offices listed in Table 1. As well as undertaking monitoring, investigation and enforcement activities, inspectors can provide you with advice on the Act and regulation.

Table 1 PHU offices in Queensland

Brisbane North Ph. 3250 8509	Mackay Ph. 4968 6611
Brisbane South Ph. 3000 9148	Redcliffe Ph. 3883 7300
Bundaberg Ph. 4150 2780	Rockhampton Ph. 4920 6989
Cairns Ph. 4050 3600	Sunshine Coast Ph. 5409 6600
Charleville Ph. 4656 8100	Toowoomba Ph. 4631 9888
Gold Coast Ph. 5509 7222	Townsville Ph. 4750 4020
Hervey Bay Ph. 4197 7277	West Moreton Ph. 3810 1500
Longreach Ph. 4658 0859	

Unlicensed activity

It is an offence for a person to carry out a pest management activity under the Act unless they are a pest management technician who holds a licence or are a trainee who is being properly supervised.

It is also an offence for employers who are in the business of providing a pest management activity to permit or require another person to undertake unlicensed activities.

Complaints regarding unlicensed pest management activities should be lodged with PHU offices.

Upcoming legislative requirements - 20 September 2005

The two year transitional phase for the Act and regulation comes to an end on 20 September 2005. The end of the transitional phase will have an impact on some technicians and for others not at all. For example technicians who held what was previously known as an 'open licence' before 20 September 2003 and who do not want to do timber pest work after 20 September 2005 are not required to obtain any additional units of competency.

Requirements that you should be aware of include:

Pest control activities

Technicians (restricted licence holders) who currently hold a licence that is restricted to the use of up to eight pesticides and have not obtained a pest management qualification by 20 September 2005 will not have their licences renewed.

Restricted licence holders must obtain the competency units:

PRMPM05, PRMPM06 & PRMPM18 to undertake pest control activities that do not include timber pest work.

OR

PRMPM05, PRMPM06, PRMPM08, PRMPM10 & PRMPM18 to undertake pest control activities that includes timber pest work.

Note: A number of technicians who are restricted licence holders also have the endorsement **"Including timber pests"** on their licence as they have obtained and submitted the required competency units. If you are one of these technicians it is important that you note that you are **still required** to obtain the competency units PRMPM05, PRMPM06 & PRMPM18 by 20 September 2005 for your licence to be renewed at that time.

Timber pest qualifications

Any technician who wants to undertake a pest control activity which involves timber pests after 20 September 2005 must have the endorsement **"Including timber pests"** on their licence at that time. If you want to undertake timber pest work then you must obtain the competency units PRMPM06, PRMPM08 & PRMPM10 from a RTO and then submit a variation of licence application form to Queensland Health.

Fumigation activities

Technicians who currently hold a licence to undertake fumigation activities and have not obtained competency unit PRMPM11 by 20 September 2005 will not have their licences renewed to undertake fumigation activities.

General awareness

Chlorpyrifos

You should be aware that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have advised that chlorpyrifos must be used according to label instructions at all times. Notwithstanding the use of chlorpyrifos in timber pest work, it is not to be applied inside buildings except as a crack and crevice treatment. It is not to be applied to surface areas such as interior floors or walls.

Pest control advice notices

As advised in the last newsletter, technicians must now be providing pest control advice notices when undertaking pest control activities.

Contact details

Enquiries concerning this newsletter can be made to Drugs and Poisons Licensing Staff on (07) 3234 0938 during office hours, 8.15am to 5pm.

This newsletter will be uploaded to the Pest Management Subject directory (includes all application forms) for industry on the Queensland Health website at:
www.health.qld.gov.au/healthyliving/pestmgt_I.htm