

Licensed Pest Management Technicians

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

The Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (MPA) commenced on the 27 September 2021 and replaces the Pest Management Act 2001 (the PMA). This information sheet is for persons seeking to be authorised under the MPA or who are currently authorised to undertake pest management activities under the repealed PMA.

A pest management licence may be issued with endorsements for urban pest control, timber pest control and fumigation activities (the same as under the PMA). Under the MPA, new endorsements for pest management are also available for control of pest birds and carrying out pest control activities in sensitive places (e.g. aged care or childcare premises) or high-risk places (e.g. poultry farms, piggeries, food manufacturing premises).

The MPA also applies to pest management technicians (PMTs) working in primary production settings. From the 27 September 2021, persons applying pesticides using ground application equipment in a primary production setting will need to hold a pest management licence. No endorsement is required for pest management in a primary production setting.

The table on page 2 summarises how the authorisations for pest management activities will transition to the new MPA.

Licences granted under the PMA prior to commencement of the new MPA will continue until the term expires or the licence is surrendered/cancelled. Applications submitted under the repealed PMA and not granted before the commencement of the new MPA, will be assessed under the MPA.

Pest management licences under the MPA will transition, as closely as possible, to the existing licences under the PMA. PMTs may apply to amend their licence to include additional endorsements. PMTs will have 12 months from the commencement of the MPA (i.e. until the 26 September 2022), to comply with the new competency requirements. For example, PMTs will have until the 26 September 2022 to obtain the additional competencies for the treatment of bird pests.

From the 27th September 2021, when a PMT licence is renewed or a new licence granted, it will be issued with:

1. **A hardcopy paper licence** – *THIS IS NOW YOUR LICENCE* do not throw it away, it should be kept safely for your personal records; and
2. **A photographic identity card** – *This is not your licence*, it may be carried with you and used to identify yourself as a licenced pest management technician.

Identity cards will include endorsements and fumigation site environments on the back of the card.

Additional supporting information and documents are available at the Queensland Health Pest Management webpage found at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/pest-management>, including factsheets, departmental standards, guidelines and application forms. Queries about authorisations for pest management activities can be directed to the Environmental Hazards Unit by email to DOH.PMT@health.qld.gov.au

Authority under the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019				
Person	Pest management activity	Type of Authority		Scope
		under PMA (repealed)	under MPA ¹	
Pest management technicians	Pest management activities undertaken as part of a business.	Pest control licence with endorsements, if any, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Pests • Timber pests 	Pest management licence with endorsement for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of urban pests ² • Treatment of timber pests • Treatment of pest birds (new) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorises treatment of urban pests or timber pest or pest birds, subject to demonstration of appropriate competency requirements. • PMTs who are authorised for urban pest control may also carry out pest control at sensitive or high-risk places subject to compliance with an Activity Risk Management Plan ³ (ARMP) prepared by an appropriately authorised PMT.
Pest management technicians	Pest management activities undertaken as part of a business.	N/A	Pest management licence with endorsement for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing an ARMP or supervising the treatment of urban pests at high-risk places (new) • Preparing an ARMP or supervising the treatment of urban pests at sensitive places (new) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMTs with this type of licence will be authorised to prepare an ARMP and supervise PMTs undertaking urban pest treatment at high risk or sensitive places. • PMTs are required to provide evidence of their competency in undertaking pest control at high risk or sensitive places, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ a letter from their employer stating they have the necessary knowledge and experience to possess the competencies for high-risk or sensitive places, or ➢ invoices/records from previously treated high-risk/sensitive places for at least two years, for the self-employed PMTs. <p>*Note - PMTs <u>do not need this endorsement</u> if they are carrying out pest control activities at high-risk or sensitive places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. in compliance with an ARMP that has been prepared by a person who is endorsed; and b. under the supervision⁴ of a PMT who is endorsed.
Pest management technicians working in primary production	Pest management activities ⁵ undertaken as part of a business in primary production.	N/A	Pest management licence for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of urban pests • Ground distribution of pesticides 	<p>Authorises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the treatment of urban pests in high-risk places, for example intensive livestock facilities, in accordance with the ARMP for the place, and • the treatment of urban pests and ground distribution of pesticides. <p><i>*Note: PMTs licensed under the MPA are deemed to hold a Commercial Operator Licence (COL) under the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Act 1966. The COL authorises the spraying of herbicides on crop. As an equivalent measure PMTs licensed to treat urban pest are recognised as being able to treat insects on crops.</i></p>
Pest management technicians	Fumigation	Fumigation licence with site environments specified	Pest management licence for fumigation of site environments specified	<p>Authorises the preparation and implementing an ARMP for the place.</p> <p>Authorises fumigation of site environments mentioned in the licence.</p>

¹ Must use APVMA registered or permitted pesticide and comply with the competency requirements under the Departmental Standard Competency requirements for authority holders dealing with poisons

² Urban pest means pests that are commonly found in places where people live and work, including for example, ants, cockroaches, mice, rats and spiders.

³ ARMPs are plans prepared and followed in accordance with sections 18, 19, 20 or 23, 24 of the *Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021*, as appropriate.

⁴ Supervisors do not need to be located onsite but must be contactable, while the pest control activity is being undertaken, by phone or other means.

⁵ Does not apply to plant pests treated with herbicides. Use of herbicides is not regulated under the MPA.