

# Pest management newsletter

This biannual newsletter provides information to pest management technicians and the pest management industry.

## Updated forms—notifiable incident

The notifiable incident form and guidelines have been updated and are now available at [www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons\\_pest](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest)

The changes to the form and guidelines include clarification of what a notifiable incident is and some examples, as well as the type of details to be reported.

It is a requirement that notice about a notifiable incident must be given to the chief executive immediately—either verbally or in writing.

Notifications can be provided over the phone or in person but must be followed up by a written notice within seven days of the incident occurring.

If you have any doubt about whether something needs to be reported, contact your local Public Health Unit for additional guidance.

## Changes to your circumstance?

Did you know that when you change any of the following, you must let Queensland Health know within 21 days it happening?

- name
- residential, business or postal address
- employer details
- company or business trading details
- location where pesticides and/or fumigants are stored
- physical or mental issues that may affect your ability to operate as a pest management technician.

No costs are associated with changing these details but if you fail to inform the department, fines of up to \$1100 may apply.

These forms are available at [www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons\\_pest](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest)

Please note that you must also advise the department if you are convicted of a relevant offence, such as an indictable offence, offence against the *Pest Management Act 2001*, or any offence relating to pest management activity.

## Pest management technician licence fees

Below are the current pest management technician (PMT) licence fees.

Please note: fees will change in accordance with annual consumer price index increases.

Description	Term	Application fee	Renewal fee
PMT	1 year	\$250.00	\$136.50
PMT	2 years	\$386.50	\$273.00
PMT	3 years	\$523.00	\$409.50
PMT	4 years	\$660.00	\$546.00
PMT	5 years	\$796.50	\$682.50
PMT variation or replacement	Per application	\$45.50	

## Penalty infringement notices and prosecution

Since April 2013, four penalty infringement notices (PINs) were issued by inspectors. The PINs related to failure of the responsible person to make

a record pertaining to prescribed information, failure of the responsible person to make a record within 24 hours, and failure to provide pest control advice. Each PIN incurred a fine of \$220.

There was one prosecution in relation to a pest management activity being conducted without an appropriate licence, resulting in a fine of \$2400.

## Washing of contaminated clothes to protect the family

Family or household members may be inadvertently placed at harm from exposure to pesticide residue that may be present in work clothing such as overalls and hats. By following the simple precautions below when handling and laundering work clothes, you can reduce the risk of unnecessary exposure.

- Do not leave contaminated clothing, shoes etc. in confined areas.
- Pre-rinse contaminated clothing by spraying/hosing.
- Wash and store contaminated clothing separately from the family washing and discard if thoroughly saturated with highly toxic pesticide.
- Wash clothes in hot water using a heavy duty laundry detergent (liquid is recommended, especially in hard water) and double rinse.
- Rewash contaminated clothing if necessary.
- Clean machine thoroughly after laundering contaminated clothing by running an empty hot water cycle with detergent.
- Where possible, line dry garments outside in direct sunlight to further aid in decontamination.

There is no need to use bleach or ammonia as research indicates that they do not improve removal of pesticide residuals.

## Fumigation clearance

Queries have been received in relation to the issuing of clearance certificates after a fumigation activity. The following information outlines what is required to meet the legislation.

Section 25(b) of the *Pest Management Regulation 2003* (PMR) requires the pest management technician to 'vent the fumigation space, and anything in the space, in a way that leaves the space and thing, if any, free of the fumigant'.

To achieve this requirement, the fumigant concentrations need to be monitored until the threshold limit value is reached.

Section 27 (PMR) requires a clearance certificate to be issued after the fumigation space is safe for entry.

Determining when the space is safe for entry requires monitoring of the fumigant concentration. This can be done by inserting a sampling probe into the product and drawing a sample of the air to determine the concentration.

Many products absorb fumigants during the fumigation process. Some of this fumigant will then be released during or after the venting period.

It is important that sufficient aeration time is allowed for product desorption before a clearance certificate is issued. The desorption rate will differ depending on the product. Failure to account for product desorption, and early release of a fumigated product, places other people at risk of exposure to unsafe levels of the fumigant when handling the product and also may not meet import or export requirements.

Care is also needed to ensure that there is no unreacted fumigant (such as solid preparations of phosphine) left in the product that may activate and release the fumigant once the product has been moved from the fumigation area. This may also result in the product having higher than the clearance level of the fumigant and present a risk to anyone entering the area.

## Repackaging and sale of poisons

Queensland Health has been alerted to an issue that some pest management technicians have been purchasing pesticides online from overseas suppliers and then on-selling them to other pest management technicians or other people.

Under *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (Qld), it is illegal to sell any Schedule 7 (S7) poison unless you have an appropriate manufacturer's licence or a licence to sell S7 poisons by retail.

All poisons sold within Australia must be registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Although it is common for products sourced from overseas to have the same trade name as those available in Australia, this does not mean that they are registered for use in Australia. There are penalties for selling poisons that are not registered with the APVMA.

## Pest management technician self-audit survey

The self-audit was completed in late December 2013, with a great industry response of 87 per cent.

As part of the project, follow up validation audits conducted by the Public Health Units were completed in March 2014. A report on the findings is presently being prepared and is expected to be completed by mid-June 2014, with the results to be published on the Queensland Health website.

Queensland Health wishes to thank all those who participated in the survey. We appreciated your feedback.

## New PUBCRIS iPhone app

The APVMA maintains current details about agricultural and veterinary chemical products (including pesticides) registered for use in Australia and has released a mobile app for iPhone and iPad. It is planned that this app will be made available for other smart phones in the future.

This online PUBCRIS data system allows you to search by name of a product or active chemical, by the permit number (if you know it), by the crop/animal you want to treat, or by the pest or purpose that you need to manage.

For further information about the new app, follow the link from the APVMA website at [www.apvma.gov.au/products/databases/#iphone\\_app](http://www.apvma.gov.au/products/databases/#iphone_app) or download the app directly from the Apple App Store.

## Online publications

This newsletter will no longer be mailed out and will be available by email and on our website. To assist in this process, please ensure when you are renewing your license, or providing a change in circumstances form, that your email address is included.

## Need more information?

Contact the Queensland **Poisons Information Centre** on 13 11 26 for advice on first aid, poisoning and poisoning prevention.

For updated copies of poisons MSDS Sheets, please contact your supplier.

Enquiries regarding this newsletter can be made to Environmental Hazards, Health Protection Unit on (07) 3328 9310.

Information on pest management, including licence forms and past newsletters, can be found at [www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons\\_pest](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest)

The acts and regulations can be found at [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au)

Enquiries or complaints regarding pest management activities can be made to your local environmental health office which can be found at

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/cho/default.asp>