

# Pest Management Newsletter

August 2015

This newsletter provides information to pest management technicians and the pest management industry. It includes updates, arising issues and regulatory actions undertaken in the pest management industry.

## Industry updates

### Fenthion use cease in October 2015

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is an Australian government authority responsible for the assessment and registration of pesticides and veterinary medicines. The APVMA has released the following update:

*“Products containing fenthion may not be used after October 2015. This marks the end of a 12-month phase-out period that commenced following the finalisation of the review into fenthion and subsequent cancellation of the active constituent. Existing stocks can be used until current permits and conditions expire in October 2015. Any product that remains unused should be disposed of responsibly.”*

The following table reflects the products due to cease use in October 2015.

| Product name                                      | Product No. | Date to cease use |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| David Grays Mosquito and Spider Spray Insecticide | 51627       | 15 October 2015   |
| Lebaycid Fruit Fly and Insect Killer              | 61308       | 15 October 2015   |
| Tiguvon Spot-on Cattle Lice Insecticide           | 33520       | 15 October 2015   |
| Lebaycid Insecticide Spray                        | 32996       | 29 October 2015   |
| Avigrease Pest Bird Eradication Compound          | 50244       | 15 October 2015   |
| Avigel Pest Bird Control Agent                    | 52075       | 15 October 2015   |
| Control-a-Bird Agent                              | 42202       | 15 October 2015   |
| Amalgamated Pest Control 1% Fenthion Dust         | 41138       | 2 November 2015   |

There are also other restrictions on the use of fenthion on food producing crops; more detail can be found on the APVMA website at <http://apvma.gov.au/>

## Unregistered or suspect pesticides

All agricultural and veterinary chemical products sold in Australia must be registered by the APVMA. Registration is granted, on the basis of the information provided by the manufacturer or sponsor and includes details about the container and the label of the pesticide.

If you purchase pesticides or chemicals over the internet, particularly from overseas suppliers, even if the product has the same trade name and active ingredient, they must be registered for use in Australia.

If you suspect a pesticide is unregistered you may check the APVMA website

<https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris> or use the PUBCRIS iPhone app.

If you find an unregistered pesticide or chemical you may report it to your local Public Health Unit which can be found at:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact/public-health-units/default.asp>

## Carcinogenic insecticides and herbicides

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is a specialised cancer agency of the World Health Organisation. The agency recently assessed the carcinogenicity of five organophosphate insecticides and herbicides - glyphosate, malathion, diazinon, tetrachlorvinphos and parathion.

The agency classifies agents into the following groups:

- Group 1 – Carcinogenic to humans
- Group 2A - Probably carcinogenic to humans
- Group 2B – Possibly carcinogenic to humans
- Group 3 – Not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans
- Group 4 – Probably not carcinogenic to humans

The herbicide glyphosate and the insecticides Malathion and Diazinon were recently reviewed and classed as Group 2A agents meaning it is probably carcinogenic to humans.

The insecticides Tetrachlorvinphos and Parathion were also recently reviewed and classed as Group 2B agents meaning it is possibly carcinogenic to humans.

The APVMA is considering the IARC findings to decide if any changes need to be made to the chemical's registration. It is important for your own safety and others that you ensure the pesticides being used are registered by the APVMA, and that you follow the safety directions including appropriate personal protective equipment as per the product label.

To ensure you obtain and follow the latest up to date safety instructions and precautions, please obtain the latest safety data sheets from your supplier or the manufacturer.

For further information about IARC or details of the research, follow the links from the IARC website at

<http://www.iarc.fr/>

## Regulatory updates

### Pest management technician licence fees

Pest Management Technician licence fees will change in accordance with annual consumer price index increases. Pest Management Technician licence fees will increase on 1 October 2015. The following table reflect the new fees effective on 1 October 2015.

| Description                          | Term            | Application fee | Renewal fee |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| PMT Licence                          | 1 year          | \$268.00        | \$146.50    |
| PMT Licence                          | 2 years         | \$414.00        | \$293.00    |
| PMT Licence                          | 3 years         | \$560.50        | \$439.50    |
| PMT Licence                          | 4 years         | \$707.00        | \$586.00    |
| PMT Licence                          | 5 years         | \$853.50        | \$732.50    |
| PMT Licence variation or replacement | Per application | \$48.50         | N/A         |

Current fees are available from the Queensland Health website which and be found at:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/licensing-fees/schedule/default.asp>

## Enforcement updates

### Penalty infringement notices and prosecutions

Since 01 May 2014, fifteen penalty infringement notices (PINs) were issued by inspectors under the *Pest Management Act 2001*. The PINs related to:

- Failure of the responsible person to make a record pertaining to prescribed information;
- Failure to provide pest control advice notice to occupiers or others, having a fumigant or pesticide in vehicle that does not comply with specified criteria; and
- Failure to give the chief executive notice of change of circumstances within 21 days after the change.

There were two prosecutions resulting in fines of \$750 and \$1,000 in relation to pest management activity being conducted without an appropriate licence.

### Pest control advice notice

Approximately 50% of the complaints received by Queensland Health related to pest control advice notice not being provided to occupiers or others; or insufficient information was provided. Investigations by

inspectors under the *Pest Management Act 2001* led to the issuing of Penalty Infringement Notices from \$227.00 to \$235.00.

Queensland Health has developed a guidance note regarding pest control advice to assist Pest Management Technicians in fulfilling their obligations; this information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/public-health/industry-environment/pest-management/pm-fs-info-give-others.pdf>

## Industry spotlight

### Manufacture and supply of pesticides

There is a concern about pest management technicians:

- repacking bulk pesticides into smaller packages for re-sale
- manufacturing pesticides for distribution or sale

Undertaking these activities without an appropriate licence may incur fines of:

- up to \$9424.00 for possessing an unregistered pesticide
- up to \$9424.00 per breach, for manufacturing (or repacking) a schedule 7 or regulated poison without an endorsement under the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.
- up to \$9424.00 per breach for selling (or giving) a schedule 7 or regulated poison without an endorsement under the Regulation.

It is important to note that undertaking a regulated activity without an appropriate licence may pose a significant risk to health and safety including to the environment.

## Licence management

### Expired licences

Queensland Health responds and investigates complaints, to alleged breaches of the *Pest Management Act 2001* and routinely conduct inspections for compliance under the *Pest Management Act 2001* and *Pest Management Regulation 2003* including following up on expired licences. Conducting a pest management activity as part of a business without a current licence is unlawful.

It is important that you renew your pest management licence **before** it expires and keep your details up to date.

### Changes to your circumstance

A pest management licence is granted based on information as such:

- 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;
- Whether or not you are or have been 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.

If there is any change to the above information you must let Queensland Health know within 21 days of it happening.

No costs are associated with changing these details but if you fail to inform the department, fines of up to \$1178.00 or a Prescribed Infringement Notice (on-the spot fine) of \$117.00 may apply.

Forms are available at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/industry-environment/pest-management/default.asp>

## Contacts and 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 Safety Data Sheets, please contact your supplier or the manufacturer.

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

Information on pest management, including licence forms and past newsletters, can be found at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/industry-environment/pest-management/default.asp>

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:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact/public-health-units/default.asp>