

Pest Management Newsletter

Newsletter #1 – July 2013

This biannual newsletter provides regulatory information for the pest management industry. It is published by the Health Protection Unit, Department of Health.

We are moving online

The Health Protection Unit is moving its information online to improve efficiency and access. Shortly this newsletter will no longer be mailed out, but will be available by email and on our web site.

To ensure you continue to receive information on regulatory matters, please complete and return the attached form.

New legislation. New competency unit codes.

In December 2012, the Pest Management Regulation 2003 was amended to include new competency standards for pest management technicians.

For pest control activity, excluding timber pests, the following competencies are accepted:

- CPPPMT3005 (new) or PRMPM05 (old)—*Modify environment to manage timber pests*
- CPPPMT3006 or PRMPM06—*Apply pesticide to manage pests*
- CPPPMT3018 or PRMPM18—*Manage consumables storage area.*

For pest control activity including timber pests, the following are accepted:

- CPPPMT3005 (new) or PRMPM05 (old)—*Modify environment to manage pests*
- CPPPMT3006 or PRMPM06—*Apply pesticides to manage pests*
- CPPPMT3008 or PRMPM08—*Inspect and report on timber pests*
- CPPPMT3010 or PRMPM10—*Control timber pests*
- CPPPMT3018 or PRMPM18—*Maintain an equipment and consumables storage area.*

For a fumigation activity, the following competencies are accepted:

- CPPPMT3011 (new) or PRMPM11 (old)—*Conduct fumigation.*

The new course competencies will co-exist with the previous course codes until June 2014.

Changed your circumstances?

If you have:

- changed your name or residential address
- changed your business contact details
- changed your employer details
- changed your company or business trading details
- changed the location of the premises where the pesticides and/or fumigants are stored
- changed your postal address.

You must inform the senior licensing officer in the Health Protection Unit within 21 days using the change of circumstances form. No fees are applicable, however fines of up to \$1100 may apply if you fail to maintain your details with the department.

Please note: a variation of licence form must be submitted for changes in pest control activity and a replacement of licence form is required for lost, stolen or destroyed licences. An application fee of \$44 applies to both forms.

These forms are available at

www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest

Licence renewals

It is your responsibility as a pest management technician (PMT) to renew your licence before it expires. The Department of Health sends renewal applications at least 60 days before the licence expiry date to the last recorded address. In accordance with the legislation, a licence cannot be renewed if it has expired. Once a licence has expired, a new application, or an application for reinstatement, must be made. To retain your previous licence number you will need to apply for licence reinstatement.

Note: application fees for a new licence or licence reinstatement are higher than renewal fees. Refer to the fee structure below.

Working while unlicensed is a breach of the Pest Management Act 2001. The penalty for operating without a licence may include fines of up to \$110 000. In addition, there may also be commercial or insurance implications for any jobs performed within the unlicensed period.

Notifiable incidents

The Pest Management Act 2001 requires a PMT to notify the chief executive, Department of Health about any notifiable incidents that occur when the technician is carrying out or supervising a pest management activity.

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

The notice of an incident must be given immediately. Notifications given orally must be put in writing within seven days from when the incident occurred. The notifications may be made to the relevant public health unit who will then forward your written notification to the chief executive. Please send notifications to:
 Chief Executive
 Department of Health
 PO Box 2368
 Fortitude Valley Qld 4006.

PMT licence fees

Below are the current PMT licence fees. These fees exclude GST and may increase shortly with CPI.

Description	Term	Application fee (\$)	Renewal application fee (\$)
PMT	1 year	241.50	132.00
PMT	2 years	373.50	264.00
PMT	3 years	505.50	396.00
PMT	4 years	637.50	528.00
PMT	5 years	769.50	660.00
PMT licence variation or replacement	Per application	44.00	

Penalty infringement notices and prosecution

Since March 2012, 18 penalty infringement notices (PINs) were issued by inspectors. The PINs related to failure of the responsible person to make a record, failure to provide pest control advice to the occupier, non-complying pesticide container, failure to erect danger signs and failure to restrict access to the vehicle. Each PIN may incur a fine of \$220 and may be issued for each identified breach. Consequently, persons identified as not complying with legislated requirements may incur significant fines.

There was one successful prosecution in relation to pest management activity being conducted without an appropriate licence.

Need more information?

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

Information on pest management, including licence forms and past newsletters, can be found at www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest

The acts and regulations can be found at www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Enquiries or complaints regarding pest management regulation and licensing can be made to the environmental health offices below:

Metro North (Windsor) Environmental Health Locked Bag 2 STAFFORD DC Q 4053 Ph 3624 1111	Mackay Environmental Health PO Box 5925 MACKAY Q 4741 Ph 4911 0400
Metro South (Coopers Plains) Environmental Health PO Box 333 ARCHERFIELD Q 4108 Ph 3000 9148	Mt Isa & Gulf PO Box 1097 MT ISA Q 4825 Ph 4744 9108
Wide Bay (Bundaberg) Environmental Health PO Box 185 BUNDABERG Q 4670 Ph 4303 7500	Metro North (Moreton Bay) PO Box 1025 REDCLIFFE Q 4020 Ph 3142 1800
Cairns Environmental Health PO Box 1103 CAIRNS Q 4870 Ph 4226 5555	Central Queensland Environmental Health PO Box 946 ROCKHAMPTON Q 4700 Ph 4920 6989
Central West Environmental Health PO Box 444 LONGREACH Q 4730 Ph 4652 6000	Sunshine Coast Environmental Health PO Box 577 MAROOCHYDORE Q 4558 Ph 5409 6600
Gold Coast Environmental Health PO Box 4256 ROBINA TOWN CENTRE Q 4230 Ph 5668 3700	Darling Downs Environmental Health PO Box 1775 TOOWOOMBA Q 4350 Toowoomba 4631 9888 Charleville Ph 46568100
Wide Bay (Hervey Bay) Environmental Health PO Box 724 HERVEY BAY Q 4655 Ph 4184 1800	Townsville Environmental Health Locked Bag no. 4016 TOWNSVILLE Q 4810 Ph 4753 9000
Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Environmental Health PO Box 621 THURSDAY ISLAND Q 4875 Ph 4069 0436	West Moreton (Ipswich) Environmental Health PO Box 2262 NORTH IPSWICH Q 4305 Ph 3413 1200

Changes in Queensland Health

Over the past 6 months, Queensland Health has undergone significant changes with the establishment of 17 Health and Hospital Services and the Department of Health. The public health units are now located within the relevant Hospital and Health Services located across the state. Each unit will continue to perform PMT audits and provide advice on the legislation including investigation of complaints.

The licensing and other regulatory aspects of the Pest Management Act 2001 are managed by the Health Protection Unit.

More information regarding the restructure is available from www.health.qld.gov.au/health-reform

Pest management mailing list

The Department of Health doesn't have your current email address. To facilitate easy communication with you, including the distribution of newsletters and other salutatory communication, please provide your email details

Post or email this form to the Senior Licensing Officer, Health Protection Unit with the following details (see contact details below):

Name: _____

PMT licence number: _____

Contact email address: _____

Contact mobile phone number: _____

Please return to the **Senior Licensing Officer, Health Protection Unit**

Mail: PO Box 2368, Fortitude Valley, Qld 4006;

or email HPU_licensing@health.qld.gov.au

Please ensure the words "**Mailing list**" is quoted in the email subject title.

Additional information can be located at the Department of Health's poisons and pest management website at:

www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest/

Note: Your licence Renewal will be sent by mail.