



# PMB UPDATE

Pesticide Management Branch  
Chemicals Assessment and  
Management Division

9820 - 106 Street Edmonton Alberta T5K 2J6

## CLASS 2 RETAIL VENDORS AND WHOLESALEERS

Spring 1996

### PESTICIDE REGULATORY REFORM INITIATIVES

The Pesticide Management Branch has been in the process of "regulatory reform" since January, 1995. The goal of regulatory reform is to preserve the intent of regulations and regulatory programs while streamlining their administration from both a government and industry perspective. To meet these goals, regulations are now being edited to remove duplication and to ensure that they are enforceable and practical. One change being proposed is to eliminate the requirement for a Class 2 Retail Vendor Approval. The removal of the approval requirement does not mean that Class 2 Retail vendors will be exempted from the legislation. All other legislated requirements will still apply including the certified Dispenser requirement. Changes are targeted to occur before January, 1997. In the meantime, current regulatory provisions are being simplified as much as legally possible.

Opportunities for cooperation with the federal government and other provinces continue to be pursued. The development of minimum national standards for pesticide certification programs<sup>1</sup> is an important example of successful federal/ provincial cooperation. Pesticide Vendors are urged to bring any labelling or packaging concerns to the Branch's attention for follow-up with the federal government. Please contact the nearest branch office.

#### In-Store Restaurants

A sales policy change, subsequent to discussions with Domestic pesticide registrants, will allow pesticides to be sold at a retail outlet that has an in-store restaurant.

However, these retail outlets must ensure that any pesticide display is separated by **at least:**

- one aisle width AND
- a minimum distance of at least three (3) metres from the restaurant area AND
- there are no odours or other concerns that are likely to cause an adverse effect.

#### In this Issue:

Pesticide Regulatory Reform Initiatives .....	1
Vendor Statistics.....	2
The "Gatekeeper" .....	2
Minimum National Standards Recognized for Pesticide Certification.....	2
Pesticide Dispenser Training Courses.....	2
Household Hazardous Waste Update .....	3
Pesticide Management Branch Going on the "Net".....	3
Ticketable Offenses .....	3
New Pesticide Management Branch Office in Red Deer.....	3

This policy will be monitored to ensure that the pesticide display areas are not presenting problems or concerns. If problems

<sup>1</sup> See "Minimum National Standards Recognized For Pesticide Certification Programs" in this issue.

are encountered, the policy will have to be reviewed and updated. Based on inspections conducted over the past two years and changes to domestic pesticide products (particularly the elimination of many glass containers) we are confident that the policy change will provide adequate health and safety protection.

**A fact sheet covering current regulatory requirements for Class 2 Retail Vendors is enclosed for your reference.**

## VENDOR STATISTICS

The following table shows the total number of Retail and Wholesale Vendor Approvals issued as of March 1, 1996.

**Table 1 Vendor Approvals and Dispenser Certificates Held up to March 1, 1996**

Vendor Type	No. of Approvals issued	Dispenser Certificate Type	Dispenser Certificates Issued
Class 1 Retail	560*	Class 1 Retail	3225
Class 2 Retail	406	Class 2 Retail	875
Wholesale	213		

\* There may be an additional 200 line company outlets obtaining vendor approvals to broker Schedule 1 & 2 products.

Pesticides regulations are currently being revised to harmonize with industry self-regulation initiatives. Therefore all vendor approvals that expire between January 1, 1996 and June 30, 1996 will receive an automatic 1 year extension. This will save paperwork and enable a smoother transition when new initiatives come into force.

## THE "GATEKEEPER"

"Gatekeeper" is the term commonly associated with a function of a retail pesticide vendor. As a pesticide vendor, you are the last point of contact with the product before it enters the domain of the user. It is very important to ensure that this end user is familiar with the hazards of the product, its handling and correct method of application. To this end the province requires that each Class 2 Retail vendor employ at least one certified pesticide Lawn and Garden Dispenser at each retail outlet. This individual should also have a good knowledge of pesticides and be prepared to answer purchaser questions at the time of sale and draw to the purchaser's attention to any health, hazard or environmental impacts identified on the product label.

Alberta Environmental Protection views the "gatekeeper" role as an important function of the vendor system and is committed to working with industry to promote and, where necessary, improve this role.

## MINIMUM NATIONAL STANDARDS RECOGNIZED FOR PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

In 1987, the Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials (CAPCO) initiated a Minimum National Standard project to improve the consistency of pesticide education and certification programs across Canada.

This Standard was developed by provincial certification officers from all provinces. The Standard is now complete and incorporates the minimum knowledge requirements that applicators and dispensers need to know to become certified in

Alberta.

The benefits of this Standard include:

- increasing the competency of all certified applicators and dispensers, providing risk reduction in the sale or use of pesticides,
- increased recognition of Alberta certification in other provinces allowing ease of movement to other provinces,
- sharing of training materials by provinces,
- providing the necessary risk reduction assurances to federal regulatory agencies, and
- providing for continued access to pesticide products especially those with human health or environmental concerns.

All recognized pesticide applicator and dispenser training courses in Alberta are currently being updated to ensure they meet the Minimum National Standard.

For more information on the Minimum National Standard contact Vivianne Servant at 1-800-661-3495.

### **PESTICIDE DISPENSER TRAINING COURSES**

Approved Class 2 Retail Vendors must employ at least one certified Lawn and Garden Pesticide Dispenser (or a Department-recognized equivalent) in order to maintain approval status.

The Lawn and Garden Pesticide Dispenser Homestudy Course and certification examination is delivered by Olds College (556-8344). The cost of the course is \$50.00, which includes the text, the examination fee and certificate issuance.

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE UPDATE**

Since 1988, Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) in Alberta have been collected in annual "toxic round-ups". To date some 167 different communities throughout the Province have taken part. Currently communities pay for the costs associated with contracting waste brokers to manage these events, while the Government of Alberta, through the Action on Waste Program covers the costs of transportation and treatment of these special wastes. Domestic pesticides are handled routinely in toxic round-ups and are safely destroyed, thus avoiding any future potential problems in landfills.

There is growing agreement throughout Canada that the costs associated with safely disposing of special wastes should be managed by the industry who manufactured them. In this regard, Action on Waste is currently working with relevant Canadian manufacturer groups and industry associations to develop an industry stewardship approach for dealing with hazardous domestic commodities. Various options are being considered, ranging from purely voluntary to more strict regulatory approaches.

For more information concerning this subject, please contact Kevin O'Neil, Action on Waste Division, Alberta Environmental Protection at 422-2107.

### **PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT BRANCH GOING ON THE "NET"**

The Environmental Regulatory Services, of which the Pesticide Management Branch is a member, is looking at making various documents and information available to the general public on its Home Page. This Home page is part of the Government of Alberta's Web Site and is located at URL <http://www.env.gov.ab.ca> Check in to the site periodically to see what is happening. Hopefully material will start to be posted by the end of March. You might want to provide feedback to let us know how we are doing and what kind of information you would like to see posted.

### **TICKETABLE OFFENSES**

For a number of minor infractions, Alberta Environmental Protection investigators will have the authority to issue tickets. The penalties vary from \$100 to \$300 and include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Storage of groceries with pesticides (\$200).
- Storage of food with pesticides (\$200).
- Display/store/sell pesticides listed in Schedule 3 where groceries are displayed (\$200).
- Commercial transport of groceries in the same vehicle with pesticides (\$300).
- Commercial transport of pesticide containers in contact with food (\$300).

**Ticket issuance does not preclude enforcement action for more serious instances of the above offenses.**

### **NEW PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT BRANCH OFFICE IN RED DEER**

The Pesticide Management Branch has established a regional office in Red Deer.

#### **Pesticide Management Branch Offices:**

Grande Prairie: 1701 Provincial Building  
10320 - 99 Street  
Grande Prairie AB T8V 6J4  
(780) 538-5460

Edmonton: Twin Atria Building  
#111 4999-98 Avenue NW  
Edmonton AB T6B 2X3  
(780) 427-7617

Red Deer: 3rd Floor, Provincial Building  
4920 - 51 Street  
Red Deer AB T4N 6K8  
(403) 340-7052

Calgary: Room 204, Deerfoot Square  
2938 - 11 Street NE  
Calgary AB T2E 7L7  
(403) 297-7602

Lethbridge: 2nd Floor, Provincial Bldg.  
200 - 5th Avenue South  
Lethbridge AB T1J 4C7  
(403) 381-5511

The above offices can also be reached by phoning 310-0000 from anywhere in Alberta.