



# PMB UPDATE

Pesticide Management Branch  
 Chemicals Assessment and  
 Management Division  
 9820 - 106 Street Edmonton Alberta T5K 2J6

## PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

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. Changes are targeted to occur before January, 1997. In the meantime, current regulatory provisions are being simplified as much as legally possible.

Another aspect of regulatory reform is the encouragement of industry initiatives such as the development of Pest Management Guidelines or Codes of Practice and their recognition within provincial programs. Currently the

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Pesticide Regulatory Reform Initiatives .....	1
Regulatory Reform Feedback Requested .....	1
Service Approvals .....	2
Service Approval Requirements Advertised .....	2
Minimum National Standards Recognized for Pesticide Certification .....	2
Pesticide Applicator Training Courses .....	3
Structural Pesticide Applicator Certificate Requirements .....	3
Supervision of Non-Certified Assistants .....	3
Pesticide Special Use Approvals .....	3
CPI Storage Requirements .....	4
Sale of Aluminum Phosphide .....	4
Pesticide Applications by Property Management Companies .....	5
Investigation Statistics .....	5
Ticketable Offenses .....	5
Spill Reporting Reminder .....	5
Container Management Program .....	5
Household Hazardous Waste Update .....	6
Education Kits .....	6
Pesticide Management Branch Going On The "Net" .....	7
New Pesticide Management Branch Office in Red Deer .....	7

Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta is considering the inclusion of Vegetation Management Plans within its Industrial Code of Practice, the Structural Pest Management Association of Alberta is planning to develop a Code of Practice for Structural Pest Control, and the cities of Edmonton and Calgary have created task forces to evaluate vegetation management and pest control programs within municipal parks and public green spaces.

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. Recently, a Discussion Document prepared by Alberta Environmental Protection in cooperation with the Alberta Aerial Applicators Association and various provinces was submitted to the federal government recommending changes to current registration requirements for aerial application. Federal/provincial agencies are also working to resolve "buffer zones" and setback restrictions on pesticide labels. Pesticide Services are encouraged to bring any labelling or registration concerns to the Branch's attention for follow-up with the federal government. Please contact the nearest branch office.

### REGULATORY REFORM: FEEDBACK REQUESTED

Based on feedback received from a mail-out in the fall of 1995, the experience requirements for pesticide applicator certification will be discontinued. In addition, the Branch intends to discontinue the issuance of Conditional Pesticide Applicator Certificates. Anyone

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

## PMB Update For Pesticide Applicators

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wishing to qualify for pesticide applicator certification will have to pass a certification exam. No longer will applicators with previous experience qualify for certification. Only in rare instances, where there is a legitimate and justified need, will the issuance of a RESTRICTED pesticide applicator certificate be considered prior to the successful completion of a pesticide applicator certification examination. Recognition of applicator certification from other provinces will still continue where a reciprocal agreement has been negotiated.

Please direct any written comments to Pesticide Management Branch, Alberta Environmental Protection, Attention: Vivianne Servant.

e-mail           vservant@env.gov.ab.ca  
fax               (780) 538-5336  
address         Rm. 1701, Provincial Building  
                    10320 - 99 Street  
                    Grande Prairie AB T8V 6J4

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### SERVICE APPROVALS

On February 1, 1996, Alberta Environmental Protection issued Pesticide Service Approvals to approximately 700 businesses and municipalities that offer a service involving the use and application of pesticides within Alberta. The approvals identify businesses and services that have met legislated provincial requirements to operate within the province. The basis for issuance of these approvals was information contained in an application filed with Alberta Environmental Protection and inspections conducted by the Department.

All certified pesticide applicators who are not employed by an approved pesticide service and who intend to provide a pesticide application service must be in possession of a valid Pesticide Service Approval. This also applies to businesses or municipalities who did not receive a Pesticide Service Approval issued February 1, 1996. From this date, Alberta Environmental Protection will initiate enforcement action for those services operating without an approval.

Application forms may be obtained from any regional office of the Pesticide Management Branch. An inspection of your operation, equipment and pesticide storage is part of the application process. Any deficiency encountered during this inspection may delay issuance of

an approval, so application forms should be submitted as soon as possible.

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### SERVICE APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS ADVERTISED

In response to concerns expressed by the landscaping industry regarding the lack of knowledge on the part of the general public about the Service Approval requirements, advertisements have been placed in the 1996 yellow pages of the regional telephone directories for Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge. Public response will be monitored by the Pesticide Management Branch.

## ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS

### Hiring someone for weed or pest control?

Before you hire someone to spray for weed or pest problems, be sure the company has a Pesticide Service Approval issued by Alberta Environmental Protection and that applications are performed or supervised by a certified applicator. Weed and insect control chemicals can be hazardous if they are not used properly. Don't put yourself or your neighbours at risk by hiring someone who may not be qualified.

For further information regarding pesticide applicator certification or Service Approval verification, please contact the nearest Pesticide Management Branch office:

Edmonton       427-5855  
Outside Edmonton Area

Call Toll-Free 310-0000



Government of Alberta

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### 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.

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## PMB Update For Pesticide Applicators

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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.

In the future, applicators may therefore see label statements that allow only certified individuals to use certain products.

All recognized pesticide applicator and dispenser training courses in Alberta are currently being updated to ensure they meet the Minimum National Standard. Update completion is expected in 1996.

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

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### PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING COURSES

Approved Pesticide Services must employ at least one certified pesticide applicator in order to maintain approval status. Pesticide applications conducted under authority of a Service Approval are limited to the category(s) of the certified pesticide applicator employed by the Service.

The Grande Prairie office of the Pesticide Management Branch processes all Pesticide Applicator Certificates. All certification enquiries can be directed toll free to this office by calling 1-800-661-3495.

The Pesticide Applicator Homestudy Course and the certification examination are delivered by Lakeland College (1-800-661-6490). The cost of the course varies with the certification category. The cost of the exam is \$30.00. All pesticide applicator courses are currently being updated to meet the Minimum National Standard. The revised courses should be available this year.

### STRUCTURAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a Structural Pesticide Applicator Certificate must successfully complete the following training and examinations:

- legislation and safety "core" examination and
- the Pest Control Technology Course offered by Purdue University

In order to successfully complete the Purdue Pest Control Technology course, applicants **MUST** request that Purdue University send the exam for proctoring to a regional office of the Pesticide Management Branch (PMB). A candidate may write at a location other than a PMB office, providing prior authorization has been granted. Contact the PMB at 1-800-661-3495 for authorization of alternate proctoring sites. An exam written at an unauthorized location may not be recognized for certification.

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### SUPERVISION OF NON-CERTIFIED ASSISTANTS

Supervision of assistants has been identified as a concern during several inspections of pesticide service facilities. The requirements for supervision are that a certified applicator may have up to six assistants, provided that he/she is **physically** present at the application site once per day and whenever there is a change in pesticide, equipment or calibration. For certain pesticide applications, identified in the **Procedures For Pesticide Applicators**, a certified applicator must be physically present throughout the entire application. A conditional applicator can supervise two assistants and must be physically present throughout the entire application.

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### PESTICIDE SPECIAL USE APPROVALS

A Special Use Approval is required by any person who applies pesticides in, on or within 30 horizontal metres of an open body of water (10 metres on cultivated land).

Like any other approval under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, applicants for Special Use Approvals must undertake public notification.

## PMB Update For Pesticide Applicators

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When a person applies for a Special Use Approval, a "Notice of Application" must be published in a local newspaper or other media to advise the public that an application has been made. Where a newspaper is not the most appropriate method of notification, posting or hand delivering a notice may also be acceptable.

Once a "notice of application" has been published or posted, persons who may be affected by the activity have 30 days within which to submit a statement of concern to a Director of Alberta Environmental Protection. Statements of concern must be dealt with prior to processing the approval application.

If no statements of concern are submitted, the approval application can be processed. Once an approval is issued, the only persons who can appeal the decision are those who have submitted a statement of concern.

The requirements for a "notice of application" can be waived if the proposed activity must be carried out to deal with an emergency, is routine (pesticide applications in or near water are not generally considered routine), or if there has been adequate public notification given prior to approval application.

Public notification requirements are being brought to the attention of Pesticide Services to ensure that approval applicants do not experience program delays. Approval applications should be submitted for processing before March 1st to ensure ample time for review and public process prior to an intended application date. Anyone who previously held a Special Use Approval which will expire before the next pesticide application season has been provided with renewal application forms. To date 35% of the renewal applications have been returned for processing.

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### CPI STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

#### *If I have a Service Approval, do I need to meet CPI Warehousing Standards?*

If you are not sure as to whether pesticide storage is required to meet CPI Warehousing Standards, phone 1-800-268-8080 to obtain more information. Generally, if you fall under one of the following categories, you will most likely have to meet CPI Phase III standards:

- A Wholesale Vendor or Class 1 Retail Vendor,

- An aerial applicator storing Agricultural or Industrial pesticides, or
  - A custom applicator storing Agricultural or Industrial pesticides.
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### SALE OF ALUMINUM PHOSPHIDE

Rumour has it that aluminum phosphide (ALP) is being "given" to farmers who turn up at elevators with grain beetle infested product so that they can return home and fumigate it. While it is not illegal for farmers to use aluminum phosphide, all sales<sup>2</sup> must be recorded correctly and the necessary information provided to the farmer. In addition ALP is a 30 day reportable pesticide and ALL sales of must reported to the Pesticide Management Branch. Currently a lot of illegal sale and transfer of aluminum phosphide is occurring, and until such activity is under control, it will remain a reportable pesticide. In a recent report a grain bin, treated two years ago with aluminum phosphide tablets and just now being augured out, still contained unused tablets. These tablets became active during the auguring causing workers to become sick. It is very important to know the condition of the grain before treating. There are currently two reportable pesticides; aluminum phosphide and phorate.

#### *Fumigation of Hay Products with Aluminum Phosphide.*

Like any other fumigation, that of hay fumigation must be carried out in accordance with provincial and federal legislation, which requires the person carrying out the fumigation to be a certified applicator, store the fumigant according to the **Procedures For Pesticide Storage**, and to use the product according to label directions. Please be aware that intransit fumigation by road is NOT allowed. Any reference to intransit fumigation on the label refers to rail transport.

In most cases, the actual processing of the hay will control any pests. Only in hay being densified will pests survive. At the present time fumigation protocols have not been established for offshore-destined hay products. This lack of direction has led to a situation where current fumigation practices are sloppy, ineffective and dangerous, placing people at risk. Rates of application

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2 Whether a sale or gift it is still a transfer of a pesticide and must be recorded accordingly

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## PMB Update For Pesticide Applicators

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are ignored and against label directions. Still further, fumigating in the winter is useless and hazardous. Aluminum phosphide tablets will NOT release phosphine gas at temperatures below 5°C and their use at these temperatures creates a hazard when the "fumigated" product is transported to a warmer location.

For more information on reportable pesticides, fumigation of hay or to obtain reportable forms, call either Patrick Scholefield or Yvonne Christensen in Calgary at (403) 297-8262.

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### PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS BY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Concern has been expressed that some property management companies/managers are purchasing domestic pesticides and applying them in and around rental properties. Be reminded that under new pesticide legislation, introduced in 1993, any person intending to apply a pesticide (commercial or Schedule 3) within a rental dwelling (other than their own dwelling), or in or on the grounds of a school, hospital, nursing home or daycare facility, must be the holder of a Pesticide Applicator Certificate or work under the supervision of the holder of a Pesticide Applicator Certificate. In addition, property management companies must also obtain a service approval.

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### INVESTIGATION STATISTICS

There were 137 investigations undertaken during 1995 (an increase from 122 in 1994).

Reported incidents involving pesticide trespass (46) and non-certified applicators (23) account for one half of the investigations. Of the 46 investigations involving pesticide trespass, 45% were related to aerial applications, 28% were related to agricultural ground applications, 20% were related to landscape applications and 6% were related to industrial applications.

Incidents involving long-term environmental impact (8), health and safety (7), non-registered uses (8), spills (5), off-site migration of pesticides (5), vendors (7), fires (1), operating without a special use approval (1) and a number of miscellaneous pesticide incidents (26) make up the

remainder of concerns investigated.

### 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. The following are some of the contraventions for which tickets can be issued:

- Possession of a pesticide in a container other than the original (\$100).
- Improper crossing through an open body of water with equipment (\$300).
- Failure to properly label temporary container (\$100).
- Failure to store pesticides in accordance with procedures (\$200).
- Improper disposal of a non-refillable pesticide container (\$100).
- Improper disposal of a container that held pesticide (\$100).
- Improper disposal of seed or grain treated with pesticide (\$100).

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

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### SPILL REPORTING REMINDER

Any accidents involving pesticide release into the environment must be reported to Alberta Environmental Protection (1-800-222-6514) to ensure proper clean-up and remediation.

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### CONTAINER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Crop Protection Institute of Canada's (CPI) container management program now operates in nine provinces. In 1995 over 3.5 million containers were collected nationally, an increase of 20.5% over 1994. In Alberta 902,000 pesticide containers were removed from 99 municipally operated container sites in 1995.

In 1980 Alberta initiated the first pesticide container collection program in Canada. The program goal, which has remained unchanged, is to have an environment free of empty pesticide containers by providing municipalities with a safe systematic way to manage and recycle these materials.

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## PMB Update For Pesticide Applicators

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While pesticide users are to be commended for their support of this program, the goal has not yet been met. To meet this goal all stakeholders are encouraged to promote, through word and deed, the depositing of rinsed (triple or pressure) non-refillable commercial pesticide containers only at designated container collection sites.

Two recent surveys, one a prairie farmer questionnaire by The Dunvegan Group for the Crop Protection Institute and the other a container site survey conducted by Alberta Environmental Protection (AEP) indicate some future challenges. The Dunvegan Group results indicate that only 63% of the 504 farmers who responded returned all the non-refillable pesticide containers, while 15% did not return any. Of those that returned their containers, only 60% were rinsed. This compares with the AEP survey where 72% of the containers sampled were rinsed.

In 1996 the CPI - Alberta Council will undertake an advertising campaign to inform pesticide users about the need for properly rinsing containers with the "Clean Means Green" slogan to help reduce risk and cost of the container management program. Rinsed containers will result in:

- less risk to the container collection crews,
- less cost for disposing of liquid pesticide and rinsate from containers (over 17,000 litres collected from Alberta sites in 1995),
- less concern regarding container site liability, and
- increased reliable options for recycling containers.

We all have a role in protecting our environment, please rinse your pesticide containers and take them to one of the municipally operated containers sites around the province. Site locations and hours of operation are available from:

- the 1996 edition of the "Blue Book" (p.19),
- your local agricultural fieldman,
- any office of the Pesticide Management Branch, or
- the Action on Waste Recycle Information Line (1-800-463-6326) for site locations and operating hours.

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### 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.

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### EDUCATION KITS

The Education Branch of Alberta Environmental Protection in conjunction with the Canadian Network of Toxicological Centres has just completed the development of another Pesticide Education Unit called "Toxicology". According to the introduction, "This resource is organized in a sequence from an introduction to toxicology to toxicology topics of interest, to a final case study on toxic effects and water.....". The unit is designed to support school curricula in a number of different areas of study. Other units already published include, "The Forest Tent Caterpillar Study", "Pesticide Education", "Mosquito Kit", "Weed Kit" and "Vegetative Management Study". For more information contact:

Alberta Environmental Protection  
Education Branch  
9th Floor South Tower, Petroleum Plaza, Edmonton  
Alberta T5K 2G8  
Telephone: (780) 427-2700.

## PMB Update For Pesticide Applicators

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

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

The Environmental Regulatory Services, of which the Pesticide Management Branch is a member, will be 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. Information will be posted over the next few months. 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.

A toll free line is available to access pesticide applicator certification information by dialing 1-800-661-3495.

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

For your information the Pest Management Regulatory Agency has launched a home page. Its URL is <http://www.hwc.ca/pmra>. It is part of Health Canada's Canadian Health Network.

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### **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: 5th Floor, Oxbridge Place  
9820 - 106 Street  
Edmonton AB T5K 2J6  
(780) 427-2700

Red Deer: 3rd Floor, Provincial Building  
4920 - 51 Street  
Red Deer AB T4N 6K8  
(403) 340-7746

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