

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
BETTY IRELAND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #3

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2005 JUL 29 P 12:01

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE
AND
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: West Virginia Department of Agriculture TITLE NUMBER: 61

CITE AUTHORITY: 19-16A-4

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO


IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 12A

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.


Authorized Signature

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
BETTY IRELAND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

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05 JUL 29 AM 9:41

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Authorized Signature

e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

f. **Name, title, address and phone/fax/e-mail numbers** of agency person(s) to receive all *written correspondence* regarding this rule: (Please type)

Grant Bishop, Assistant Director gbishop@ag.state.wv.us

Pesticide Regulatory Programs

WVDA

1900 Kanawha Blvd., East

Charleston WV 25305-0190

304-558-2209

304-558-2228 fax

g. **IF DIFFERENT FROM ITEM 'f'**, please give **Name, title, address and phone number(s)** of agency person(s) who wrote and/or has responsibility for the contents of this rule: (Please type)

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

b. Date of hearing or comment period:

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

Summary

West Virginia Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules

§61-12A-6 et seq.

Amendments to Existing Rule

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has proposed amendments to the language in Section 3.3 "Determination of Competency" to clarify education and experience requirements, reducing uncertainty about which persons are qualified to be examined as pesticide applicators.

Another amendment will exempt employees of Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses ("not-for-hire" businesses) from meeting the education and experience required of employees of Licensed Pesticide Application Businesses ("for-hire" businesses). As the rules now stand, employees of Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses, such as local government entities, are required to become licensed as certified pesticide applicators, but many cannot meet the education and experience requirements.

Other proposed changes implement continuing education requirements for registered pest control technicians. The changes are necessary in order to ensure that persons involved in the application of pesticides have current knowledge of pest management procedures, as well as the safe and effective application of control measures. The amendment would require registered technicians to obtain 4 continuing certification units (2 hours) for each category or subcategory of certification per year. Currently continuing education is required only for certified applicators.

Statement of Circumstances

West Virginia Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules

§61-12A-6 et seq.

Amendments to Existing Rule

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has proposed amendments to the language in Section 3.3 "Determination of Competency" to clarify education and experience requirements for persons wishing to take pesticide applicator examinations. Current wording at times results in confusion about which persons meet the qualifications to sit for examinations.

Another amendment will exempt employees of Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses ("not-for-hire" businesses) from meeting the education and experience required of employees of Licensed Pesticide Application Businesses ("for-hire" businesses). As the rules now stand, employees of Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses, e.g., local government entities, are required to become licensed as certified pesticide applicators. Many of these persons, however, cannot meet the education and experience requirements. These businesses must then either hire outside pesticide contractors or apply pesticides without the proper certification.

Other proposed amendments will implement a continuing education requirement for registered pest control technicians. The amendment requires registered technicians to obtain 4 continuing certification units (2 hours) of continuing education for each category or subcategory of certification per year. Although registered technicians are now required to undergo initial training, no continuing education is currently required. These changes are thought necessary in order to ensure that persons involved in the application of pesticides have current knowledge of pest management procedures, as well as the safe and effective application of control measures.

APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title: Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules

Type of Rule: Legislative Interpretive Procedural

Agency: West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Address: 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston WV 25305-0190

Phone Number: 304-558-2209 Email: gbishop@ag.state.wv.us

Fiscal Note Summary

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

None

Fiscal Note Detail

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

FISCAL YEAR			
Effect of Proposal	2005 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2006 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00
Current Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs & Alterations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00

Rule Title: Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules

3. **Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect):**
Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

MEMORANDUM

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule **would not** have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues **not** captured elsewhere on this form.

The proposed changes will implement a continuing education requirement for registered pesticide application technicians. The changes are not anticipated to have a measurable fiscal impact.

Date: 6-28-05

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

Steve Burns

TITLE 61
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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SERIES 12A
CERTIFIED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RULES

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

§61-12A-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule establishes the requirements governing the certification and training, record keeping and general operation of equipment for certified pesticide applicators.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §19-16A-4

1.3. Filing Date. --

1.4. Effective Date. --

§61-12A-2. Definitions.

2.1. The term "Act" means the West Virginia Pesticide Control Act (W. Va. §19-16A-1 et seq.).

2.2. The term "competent" means properly qualified to perform the functions associated with pesticide application, the degree of capability required being directly related to the nature of the activity and the associated responsibility.

2.3. The term "fumigant" means a gaseous or readily volatilizable chemical (as sulfuryl fluoride or methyl bromide) used as a disinfectant or pesticide.

2.4. The term "fumigation" means the application of a fumigant to one or more rooms in a structure, or to the entire structure, or to a localized space within a structure or outside of a structure, such as a box car, aircraft, truck, ship or any object which is sealed or covered.

2.5. The term "regulated pest" means a specific organism considered by the State or by a federal agency to be a pest requiring regulatory restrictions, regulations or control procedures in order to protect the host, man or the environment.

§61-12A-3. Certification of Pesticide Applicators.

3.1. The commissioner may not certify a person as a pesticide applicator unless he or she has passed an examination approved by the commissioner or he or she qualifies through the reciprocity requirements as contained in section 10 of this rule or qualifies as a federal employee under section 11 of this rule.

3.2. The certification of individuals, employees or representatives of governmental agencies (including but not limited to federal employees under 40 CFR Part 171) who use or supervise the use of pesticides in the performance of their official duties shall meet the requirements of this rule and be certified as certified public applicators pursuant to this rule. The certification of such individuals, employees or representatives is valid only when applying or supervising the application of pesticides in the performance of their official duties.

3.3. Determination of Competency

3.3.a. The commissioner shall determine competence in the use and handling of pesticides on the basis of experience and/or education, a written examination and as appropriate, performance testing based upon the standards set forth in section 6 of this rule.

3.3.b. The commissioner shall require each applicant for examination to show proof of one year of experience, or education or training by one of the following:

3.3.b.A. ~~One year of Experience acceptable to the commissioner~~ as a full-time registered technician engaged in those categories in which the applicant seeks to be certified. Proof of experience may include notarized affidavits from former employers or certification/licensure from other states or the federal government;

3.3.b.B. ~~A degree or academic certificate acceptable to the commissioner;~~ Education, training or experience in a field such as but not limited to biology, chemistry, or forestry, or

3.3.b.C. A combination of education and experience ~~acceptable to the commissioner.~~

3.3.b.D. Exemption. Employees of Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses are exempt from the provisions of this section.

3.3.c. The commissioner shall give written examinations at such time and places as he or she may direct. An applicant must correctly answer 70% or more of the examination questions to be considered competent.

3.3.d. ~~The commissioner shall deny certification to an applicant who fails to answer at least 70% of the questions correctly.~~ Applicants who fail to achieve a passing score on their first attempt at examination are eligible to be reexamined in the same category after 28 days from the date of the first examination. Applicants who fail on the second attempt or any subsequent attempt must wait 56 days from the date of the last examination for reexamination.

3.4. Any person applying for certification as a commercial applicator, certified public applicator or private applicator shall submit a completed application form accompanied by the appropriate fee established in West Virginia Department of Agriculture Rule, Fee Structure for the Pesticide Control Act of 1990, 61 CSR 12. The application form shall contain all the information required by the Act and any other information considered necessary by the commissioner to carry out the purpose of the Act.

§61-12A-4. Categorization of Commercial Applicators.

4.1. Commercial pesticide applicators who are required to be certified applicators are classified in the categories and subcategories set forth in this section. Public employees required to be certified applicators in the categories and subcategories listed in this section are categorized as commercial applicators with respect to the application of restricted use pesticides.

4.2. Commercial Applicator Categories

4.2.a. Agricultural Plant Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in the production of agricultural crops, including but not limited to tobacco, peanuts, cotton, feed grains, soybeans and forage; vegetables; small fruits; and tree fruits and nuts; as well as on grasslands and non-crop agricultural lands.

4.2.b. Agricultural Animal Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides on animals, including but not limited to beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, poultry and livestock, and to places on or in which animals are confined.

4.2.c. Forest Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in forests, forest nurseries and forest seed producing areas.

4.2.d. Ornamental and Turf. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides to control pests in the maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and turf.

4.2.d.A. Ornamental and Turf Outdoors. This subcategory is for commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides outdoors in the maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs and flowers. When requested persons certified in this category may perform incidental treatment to indoor plants in small areas not to exceed 10 square feet.

4.2.d.B. Ornamental Pest Control Indoors. This subcategory is for commercial applicators who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides indoors in the maintenance and production of ornamental plants.

4.2.e. Seed Treatment. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides on seeds.

4.2.f. Aquatic Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of any restricted use pesticide purposefully applied to standing or running water, and excludes public health applicators as defined in sub-division 4.2.i. of this rule.

4.2.g. Right-of-Way/Industrial Weed Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in the maintenance of public roads, electric power lines, pipelines, railway rights-of-way, fence lines, structural perimeters or other similar areas.

4.2.h. Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related Pest Control. Commercial applicators in this category are subcategorized as follows:

4.2.h.A. General. This subcategory includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in and around residential, commercial, institutional or industrial facilities, including food preparation areas such as kitchens, cafeterias or snack shops. When requested, persons certified in this subcategory may perform incidental treatment to indoor plants in small areas not to exceed 10 square feet.

4.2.h.B. Structural. This subcategory includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides to control wood destroying pests in structures.

4.2.h.C. Fumigation. This subcategory includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, in gaseous form, within enclosed gas tight spaces such as, tents, structures, vehicles or vessels, for a wide range of commodities and conditions.

4.2.h.D. Wood Preservation and Wood Product Treatment. This subcategory includes

commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, at treating plants and saw mills, for preservative treatment of wood by pressure, dipping, soaking and diffusion processes to produce a commodity for sale and/or installation. This subcategory also includes the handling and topical application and injection of wood preservatives, for operations such as, groundline pole treatment, waterproofing, millwork cutoffs, or supplemental field treatment.

4.2.h.E. Urban Integrated Pest Management. This subcategory includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in integrated pest management programs in and around commercial, institutional or industrial facilities, including food preparation areas such as kitchens, cafeterias or snack shops.

4.2.i. Public Health. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides for Federal, State or other governmental units in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance.

4.2.j. Regulatory. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides for Federal, State or other governmental units in the control of regulated pests.

4.2.k. Demonstration and Research. This category includes commercial applicators who demonstrate to the public the proper use and techniques of application of restricted use pesticides or supervise the demonstrations. Examples of such persons are extension specialists and county agents, commercial representatives demonstrating pesticide products, and those individuals demonstrating methods used in public programs. Also included in this category are commercial applicators conducting field research who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides. Examples of such persons are State, Federal and other persons conducting field research utilizing restricted use pesticides.

4.2.l. Pesticide Storage and Distribution (Excluding application). This category includes those persons who store, display and distribute restricted use pesticides in the operation of a business selling or distributing pesticides. Certification in this category does not permit the application of pesticides for hire.

4.2.m. Miscellaneous Pest Control. - This category includes commercial applicators who may be required to be certified applicators in an area other than those specified. The commissioner shall issue certification in this category on a case by case basis. The commissioner shall restrict the activities of the applicator certification, as he or she considers appropriate, to the applicators experience and demonstration of competency.

4.2.m.A. - When any pesticide is declared to be a restricted use pesticide and a category for the use of that pesticide does not exist, the commissioner may establish an appropriate subcategory under this category.

§61-12A-5. Categorization of Private Applicators.

5.1. Agricultural Pest Control. This category includes private applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in the production of agricultural commodities, including but not limited to tobacco, peanuts, cotton, feed grains, soybeans and forage; vegetables; small fruits; tree fruits and nuts; as well as on grasslands and non-crop agricultural lands. This category also includes private applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides on animals and places on or in which animals are confined. Examples of such animals include, but are not limited to: beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, poultry and livestock.

§61-12A-6. Certification Standards for Pesticide Applicators.

6.1. General Standards for private and commercial applicators. All applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the principles and practices of pest control and safety in the use of pesticides. The commissioner shall base a determination of competency on an examination containing examples of problems and situations in the following areas:

6.1.a. Label and labeling comprehension to include:

6.1.a.A. the general format and terminology of labels and labeling;

6.1.a.B. the understanding of directions for use, warnings, terms, names, symbols and other information commonly appearing on pesticide labels;

6.1.a.C. the understanding that labels and labeling are legal documents and the applicator shall follow directions they contain; and

6.1.a.D. the meaning of the term Restricted Use pesticide;

6.1.b. Safety factors to include:

6.1.b.A. an understanding of the terms acute and chronic toxicity, exposure and how a hazard is determined by exposure to a pesticide and a pesticide's toxicity;

6.1.b.B. the recognition of symptoms of acute toxicity and practical treatment of these symptoms;

6.1.b.C. the precautions necessary to prevent injury to any applicators and other individuals in or near treated areas;

6.1.b.D. the need for and use of personal protective equipment;

6.1.b.E. a knowledge of worker protection practices, including warning requirements and reentry restrictions; and

6.1.b.F. a knowledge of the safe practices regarding transportation, storage, mixing, handling, application and disposal of pesticides including container disposal;

6.1.c. Environmental risk to include:

6.1.c.A. the climatic factors that cause pesticide drift and runoff;

6.1.c.B. how terrain, soil and substrata influence surface and ground water contamination;

6.1.c.C. the recognition of sensitive areas and the organisms affected by pesticide applications, drift and runoff;

6.1.c.D. the precautions necessary for the protection of endangered and threatened species; and

6.1.c.E. methods of spill prevention and control;

6.1.d. Pest identification and biology to include:

6.1.d.A. the principles of pest identification; and

6.1.d.B. the recognition of damage or problems caused by pests;

6.1.e. Pesticides and chemical control to include:

6.1.e.A. the types of pesticides, formulations and adjuvants;

6.1.e.B. the concepts of pesticide compatibility, synergism, persistence and resistance;

6.1.e.C. the factors which affect a pesticide's effectiveness; and

6.1.e.D. the selection of the correct formulation and method of application for a site and pest;

6.1.f. Equipment to include:

6.1.f.A. the characteristics and main uses of typical pesticide application equipment;

6.1.f.B. the selection of the most appropriate equipment for applicable situations; and

6.1.f.C. the proper care, maintenance and use of application equipment;

6.1.g. Calibration and calculations to include:

6.1.g.A. the dilution of concentrate formulations in accordance with label directions;

6.1.g.B. the calculation of area or volume to be treated and amount of pesticide to be applied; and

6.1.g.C. the adjustment of the application equipment's nozzle, pressure and speed to obtain correct pesticide output; and

6.1.h. Applicator related laws and rules and regulations to include:

6.1.h.A. the applicable State and Federal laws and rules and regulations;

6.1.h.B. the applicator's responsibility for pesticide use consistent with it's label or labeling and supervision of non-certified employees assigned to use a restricted use pesticide; and

6.1.h.C. the applicator's liability and penalties.

6.2. Specific Standards of Private Applicator. Private applicators shall demonstrate by written examination the skills and knowledge specific to their category of certification. The importance of the demonstration is amplified by the use of pesticides on extensive areas, the quantities of pesticide needed and the ultimate use of many agricultural commodities as food and fuel.

6.2.a. Agricultural Pest Control. As a minimum requirement a private applicator in this category must demonstrate by written examination a practical knowledge of the pest problems and pest control practices associated with his or her agricultural operation and his or her related legal

responsibility. This demonstration of knowledge shall include:

6.2.a.A. the recognition of the common pests to be controlled and damage caused by them;

6.2.a.B. the ability to read and understand the pesticide label and labeling information - including the common name of pesticides he or she applies; the pests to be controlled; the timing and methods of application; safety precautions; any preharvest or reentry restrictions; and specific disposal procedures;

6.2.a.C. the ability to apply pesticides in accordance with label instructions and warnings, including the ability to prepare the proper concentration of pesticide to be used under particular circumstances taking into account such factors as the area to be covered, the speed at which application equipment will be driven and the quantity dispersed in a given period of operation;

6.2.a.D. the ability to recognize local environmental situations that must be considered during pesticide application to avoid contaminations;

6.2.a.E. the ability to recognize poisoning symptoms and the procedures to follow in case of a pesticide accident; and

6.2.a.F. a practical knowledge concerning relevant soil and water problems, preharvest intervals, reentry intervals, phytotoxicity, pesticide toxicity, residue potential and the potential for environmental contamination and non-target injury.

6.3. Specific standards for commercial applicators. All commercial applicators shall demonstrate skills and knowledge specific to their desired category of certification in addition to the general requirements set forth in section 6.1 of this rule. The specific standards set forth in this section are applicable to the commercial applicator categories and subcategories of certification specified in sub-section 4.2 of this rule.

6.3.a. Agricultural Plant Pest Control. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of crops grown and the specific pests of those crops on which they may be using restricted use pesticides. The applicator must have a practical knowledge concerning soil and water problems, preharvest intervals, re-entry intervals, phytotoxicity and the potential for environmental contamination, non-target injury and community problems resulting from the use of restricted use pesticides in agricultural areas.

6.3.b. Agricultural Animal Pest Control. Applicators applying pesticides directly to animals shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the animals in this State and their associated pests. An applicator must also have a practical knowledge concerning specific pesticide toxicity and residue potential, since host animals will frequently be used for food. Further, the applicator must know the relative hazards associated with such factors as formulation, application techniques, the age of the animal, stress and the extent of treatment.

6.3.c. Forest Pest Control. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the types of forests, forest nurseries and seed production in this State and the pests involved. They shall possess a practical knowledge of the cyclic occurrence of certain pests and specific population dynamics as a basis for programming pesticide applications. An applicator must have a practical knowledge of the relative biotic agents and their vulnerability to the pesticides to be applied. The applicator shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of secondary problems such as unintended effects on wildlife. An applicator must demonstrate the proper use of specialized equipment especially as

it may relate to meteorological factors and adjacent land use.

6.3.d. Ornamental and Turf Pest Control.

6.3.d.A. Ornamental and Turf - Outdoors. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of pesticide problems associated with the production and maintenance of ornamental trees, shrubs, plantings and turf, including a cognizance of potential phytotoxicity due to a wide variety of plant material, drift and persistence of the pesticide beyond the intended period of pest control. Because of the frequent proximity of human habitations to application activities, applicators in this category shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of application methods and the possible hazards to humans, pets and other domestic animals.

6.3.d.B. Ornamental Pest Control - Indoors. Applicants shall demonstrate a knowledge of pesticide problems associated with the production and maintenance of ornamental plants indoors, phytotoxicity, problems associated with drift in the indoor environment and application methods that minimize hazards to humans and pets.

6.3.e. Seed Treatment. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the types of seeds that require chemical protection against pests and factors such as seed coloration, carriers and surface agents which influence pesticide binding and may affect germination. They shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of hazards associated with the handling, sorting and mixing, and misuse of treated seed such as the introduction of treated seed into food and feed channels, as well as the proper disposal of unused treated seeds.

6.3.f. Aquatic Pest Control. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the types of secondary effects which can be caused by improper application rates, incorrect formulations and the faulty application of restricted use pesticides used in this category. They shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of various water use situations and the potential of downstream effects of pesticides on plants, fish, birds, beneficial insects and other organisms which may be present in aquatic environments. These applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the principles of limited area application.

6.3.g. Right-of-Way/Industrial Weed Control. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of a wide variety of environments, since rights-of-way can traverse many different terrains, including waterways. They shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of problems of runoff, drift and excessive foliage destruction and the ability to recognize target organisms. They shall also demonstrate a practical knowledge of the mode of action of herbicides and the need for containment of these pesticides within the right-of-way area, and the impact of their application activities in the adjacent areas and communities.

6.3.h. Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related Pest Control.

6.3.h.A. General. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the control of pests in and around structures excluding fumigation and wood destroying pests. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of household type pests, such as cockroaches, ants, silverfish, spiders, food and fabric insects, rats, bats and other occasional invaders, that infest structures, stored products and food preparation areas, such as kitchens, cafeterias or snack bars. They shall demonstrate a knowledge of conditions conducive to pest infestations and the selection of appropriate control procedures for each situation. Applicators shall demonstrate a knowledge of the hazards involved with pesticide usage.

6.3.h.B. Structural. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of structural

wood destroying organisms, such as beetles, termites and fungi, and the conditions conducive to infestation. They shall demonstrate a knowledge and the ability to select, calibrate and use appropriate control procedures including rodding and trenching and the topical application of pesticides. Applicators shall demonstrate a knowledge of the hazards involved with the handling and use of these pesticides and the appropriate application equipment to be used.

6.3.h.C. Fumigation. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of conditions requiring the application of fumigants and the selection of the most appropriate fumigation methods to use. They shall demonstrate a knowledge of the equipment used in fumigation, such as application, monitoring, testing, calculating and personal protective devices. Applicators shall demonstrate the ability to release, distribute and maintain the correct fumigant concentrations for the product or structure being fumigated, under differing conditions. They shall have a knowledge of the hazards involved with the use of fumigants.

6.3.h.D. Wood Preservation and Wood Product Treatment. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the conditions for which a preservative treatment of wood is used. Applicators shall demonstrate a knowledge of the health and environmental hazards associated with wood treating procedures, and the need for informing purchasers of precautions for handling, use and disposal of treated wood products. They shall demonstrate a knowledge of all applicable treating and testing equipment. Applicators in this subcategory shall also demonstrate a knowledge of the handling and local injection of specially labeled liquid or solid wood fumigants into infested wood, such as poles, piling and railroad crossties. Applicators shall demonstrate a knowledge of the hazards involved with the handling and use of these pesticides and the appropriate application equipment to be used.

6.3.h.E. Urban Integrated Pest Management. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the principles of integrated pest management for pests in and around structures. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of urban pests such as cockroaches, ants, silverfish, spiders, food and fabric insects, rats, bats, and other occasional invaders that infest structures, stored products, and food preparation areas such as kitchens, cafeterias or snack bars. They shall demonstrate a knowledge of site evaluation, inspection, and monitoring; the relationship between pest biology and pest management methods; the concept of threshold levels; the use of pest preventive methods; the use of mechanical and physical pest management techniques; the use of least hazardous pest control methods; and the use of recordkeeping to evaluate the effectiveness of pest management programs.

6.3.i. Public Health Pest Control. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of vector-disease transmission as it relates to and influences application programs. A wide variety of pests may be involved and it is essential that the applicator know and recognize the pests and understand the appropriate life cycles and habitats as a basis for control strategy. These applicators shall have a practical knowledge of a great variety of environments ranging from streams to those conditions found in buildings. They should also have a practical knowledge of the importance and employment of such non-chemical control methods as sanitation, waste disposal and drainage. Applicators shall also be aware of all regulatory requirements for reentry precautions and warnings.

6.3.j. Regulatory Pest Control. Applicators shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of regulated pests, including the applicable laws relating to quarantine and other regulation of pests and the potential impact on the environment of restricted use pesticides used in suppression and eradication programs. They shall demonstrate a knowledge of the factors influencing introduction, spread and population dynamics of relevant pests. Their knowledge shall extend beyond that required by their immediate duties, since their services are frequently required in other areas of the country where emergency measures are invoked to control regulated pests and where individual

judgements are made in new situations.

6.3.k. **Demonstration and Research Pest Control.** Persons demonstrating the safe and effective use of pesticides to other applicators and the public are expected to meet comprehensive standards reflecting a broad spectrum of pesticide uses. Many different pest problem situations will be encountered in the course of activities associated with the demonstration and an applicator must have a practical knowledge of problems, pests and population levels occurring in each demonstration situation. Further, they shall demonstrate an understanding of pesticide-organism interaction and the importance of integrating pesticide use with other control methods. Applicators doing demonstration pest control work shall possess knowledge of all of the standards detailed under sub-section 6.1. of this rule. In addition, they shall meet the specific standards required in sub-division 6.3.a. through 6.3.h. of this rule as may be applicable to their activity in this State. Persons conducting field research or method improvement work with restricted use pesticides shall know the general standards detailed in section 6.1. of this rule. In addition, they shall know the specific standards required in sub-division 6.3.a. through 6.3.j. of this rule as may be applicable to their particular activity in this State.

6.3.l. Pesticide Storage and Distribution.

6.3.l.A. Persons in this category store, display and distribute restricted use pesticides. Applicants in this category shall demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the safe and acceptable methods of handling, storing, displaying and distributing restricted use pesticides; the potential for environmental hazards; the containment of spills; the disposal of pesticide related hazardous waste and an understanding of State and Federal pesticide laws.

6.3.l.B. Persons operating as dealers of restricted use pesticides shall also demonstrate a practical knowledge of the types of pesticides he or she sells, including but not limited to: labels and label comprehension; the classification of pesticides and the necessity for use consistent with the label; safety, including safe use and safe environment; the symptoms of pesticide poisoning; the types of pesticides and pesticide formulations; and the dilution procedures and application techniques.

6.3.m. **Miscellaneous.** This section is reserved for specific standards to be developed as needed for applicators needing to be certified for restricted use pesticides or activities that may, in the future, be declared needing certification by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Commissioner.

6.3.n. **Aerial.** In addition to demonstrating a knowledge of the specific standards for the applicable categories or subcategories in sub-sections 6.3.a. through 6.3.k. of this rule, persons desiring to apply pesticides by aircraft must hold a valid Agricultural Applicator Certification from the Federal Aviation Administration.

6.4. **Registered Technicians.** Non-certified employees of a pesticide business performing pesticide application similar to a commercial applicator or certified public applicator must register with the commissioner.

6.4.a. **Initial Training.** Each pesticide business is responsible for ensuring that each employee, other than a certified applicator, successfully completes a verifiable training program approved by the commissioner. The employee shall complete the training program within 30 days of his or her employment and before the employee registers with the commissioner.

6.4.b. The commissioner may not approve any training program that does not have a method

of verification of employee attendance or participation and include instruction in at least the following elements:

6.4.b.A. State and Federal Laws and Rules and Regulations;

6.4.b.B. how to read and interpret a pesticide label;

6.4.b.C. the handling of emergencies and spills to include:

6.4.b.C.1. the signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning;

6.4.b.C.2. the practical emergency treatment for pesticide injuries;

6.4.b.C.3. how to obtain emergency medical care; and

6.4.b.C.4. decontamination procedures;

6.4.b.D. the proper methods of storing, mixing or loading, transporting, handling, applying and disposing of pesticides;

6.4.b.E. safety and health measures including the proper use of personal protective equipment including:

6.4.b.E.1. the hazards of pesticides from toxicity or exposure including acute and delayed reaction; and

6.4.b.E.2. the routes of exposure;

6.4.b.F. the potential adverse effects caused by various climatic or environmental conditions such as drift, runoff or ground water contamination;

6.4.b.G. pesticide application techniques;

6.4.b.H. pest identification and control recommendation; and

6.4.b.I. the principles of integrated pest management; and

6.4.c. Upon request by the commissioner each pesticide business shall produce the records or other means of verification that an employee has completed an approved training program.

6.4.d. Identification. The commissioner shall issue an identification card to each registered technician. The registered technician shall carry the identification card and show it upon request to any person.

6.4.e. Employment termination. Within 30 days of termination, a pesticide business shall give the commissioner written notice of the termination of the registered technician. The registered technician shall return the identification card to the commissioner.

§61-12A-7. Recertification.

7.1. At no greater than a three year interval each commercial applicator, certified public

applicator or private applicator must present evidence or documentation indicating that he or she has attended workshops or training sessions approved by the commissioner. The commissioner will grant an applicator a continuing certification unit (ccu) for a 30 minute period of training or the greater portion thereof.

7.2. Commercial/Certified Public Applicators - For recertification, each commercial applicator or certified public applicator shall accrue at least 20 continuing certification units (10 hours) of audience contact or participation on the subject matter contained in sub-sections 6.1 and 6.3 of this rule for each category or subcategory of certification.

7.3. Private Applicator - For recertification, each private applicator shall accrue at least 10 continuing certification units (5 hours) of audience contact or participation on the subject matter contained in sub-sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this rule for each category or subcategory of certification.

7.4. Registered Technicians - At no greater than a one year interval, each registered technician shall accrue at least 4 continuing certification units (2 hours) of audience contact or participation on the subject matter contained in sub-sections 6.1 and 6.3 of this rule for each category or subcategory of registration each year prior to renewal.

7.4.5 A certified applicator may accumulate the required continuing certification units for programs as required in this section by attending two or more training sessions.

§61-12A-8. Supervision of Non Certified Applicators.

8.1. General Supervision

8.1.a. All non-certified applicators must be under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.

8.1.b. During the non-certified applicator's use of a restricted use product, the certified applicator shall be able to be at the use site and with the non-certified applicator, at the point of use of the restricted use product, within a reasonable period of time; ensure that the non-certified applicator has means by which to contact the certified applicator immediately, should the need arise; shall be available to be contacted by the non-certified applicator; and shall arrive at the point of use within a reasonable period of time if summoned by the non-certified applicator. The certified applicator shall take into consideration the potential for serious consequences of a delay in arriving at the use site when determining what is a reasonable period of time.

8.2. Label Specified Supervision - In some situations the labeling on the pesticide product will require other levels of supervision. These requirements may be the use of the pesticide with a certified applicator on site or use only by a certified applicator. In those situations, the product label will control the minimum supervision required. An applicator must follow these label requirements.

§61-12A-9. Record Keeping.

9.1. Commercial Applicator/Certified Public Applicator

9.1.a. Each commercial applicator or certified public applicator shall keep for a minimum of two years records detailing the application of all pesticides. Applicators shall maintain the following information at a minimum:

9.1.a.A. the pesticide used, including the EPA registration number;

9.1.a.B. the formulation, the dilution rate and the quantity of the pesticide used. In the case of a business in the classification of General Pest and Ornamental and Turf pest control, the records for the quantity used may be kept as the total quantity used per day by each applicator when less than one gallon of use dilution spray or one pound of dust, powder or prepared rodenticide baits are used at any location. When more than these amounts are used at one location, the quantity of the pesticide for that location shall be maintained separately;

9.1.a.C. the date and the place of application; and

9.1.a.D. the pest against which the pesticide was used.

9.2. Records kept by a licensed pesticide application business or a regulated pesticide business may serve as the records for the individual certified employees of those businesses.

9.3. Private Applicator - A private applicator shall keep records for a period of two years detailing the use of restricted use pesticides. A private applicator shall maintain the following minimum information:

9.3.a. the pesticide used, including EPA registration number;

9.3.b. the formulation, the dilution rate and the quantity of the pesticide used;

9.3.c. the date and the place of application; and

9.3.d. the pest against which the pesticide was used.

§61-12A-10. Reciprocity.

10.1. Commercial Applicators - When a non-resident commercial applicator is certified under the state plan of another state and desires to operate as a commercial applicator in West Virginia, he or she shall make application to the commissioner and shall include, along with the proper fee and other details required by the Act, a true copy of his or her credentials certifying him or her as an applicator of restricted use pesticides in another state. The commissioner then may, if he or she approves the credentials, issue a West Virginia license to the applicator in the category(ies) for which he or she is certified in another state, without a written examination, provided that the state having originally certified the applicator will similarly certify holders of West Virginia certificates has similar certification requirements.

10.2. Private Applicators - When a private applicator is certified under the state plan of another state and owns, leases or manages land in West Virginia on which restricted use pesticides must be applied to produce agricultural crops, the commissioner will issue a West Virginia Private Applicator Certification on receipt of a properly completed application, the proper fee and a true copy of the applicant's out-of-state certification.

§61-12A-11. Federal Employees.

11.1. Certification - When an employee of any agency of the United States Government has been qualified in any category as competent to apply restricted use pesticides under the Government Agency Plan (GAP), or another EPA approved plan judged by the commissioner to be at least equal to the Act and rules promulgated pursuant to the Act, the commissioner may issue a certification in the same category or categories without the need for a written examination nor for the payment of any fee.

11.2. Qualification for Certification - Federal employees qualified under an acceptable federal plan to apply restricted use pesticides and who intend to apply restricted use pesticides in West Virginia as a part of their agency work shall present their qualifying documents to the commissioner; and, if acceptable, these documents will be endorsed by the commissioner or a State document will be issued which will permit the federal employee to use restricted use pesticides in West Virginia.

11.3. Emergency Situations - If, in an emergency situation, federal employees are brought in to West Virginia to control or eradicate pests, and these employees have been properly qualified to use restricted use pesticides under the plan of another state or under an acceptable federal government agency plan, the employee is considered to be certified in West Virginia. The employee and his or her agency must, within 10 days of entering the state, present qualifying credentials to the commissioner. At this time, the commissioner shall issue State credentials if the employee is to remain in West Virginia as an applicator of restricted use pesticides. The provisions of this section do not apply to nonfederal employees contracted to perform pesticide applications for the federal government. In an emergency, however, and with the concurrence of the commissioner, a properly certified federal applicator may act in a supervisory capacity of a nonfederal applicator provided that applicator is properly certified in West Virginia or under the plan of another state. Within 10 days of entering the State, the non-federal applicator certified in another state must apply for West Virginia certification as required by this rule.

§61-12A-12. Equipment.

12.1. General - No person shall apply, dispense or use any pesticide in or through any equipment or application apparatus unless such equipment or application apparatus is in sound mechanical condition and capable of satisfactory operation. All pesticide application equipment shall be properly equipped to dispense the proper amount of pesticide. All pesticide mixing, storage or holding tanks, whether on application equipment or not, shall be leakproof. All spray distribution systems shall be leakproof and any pumps which such systems may have shall be capable of operating at sufficient pressure to assure a uniform and adequate rate of discharge. All pesticide application equipment shall be equipped with whatever cut-off valves and discharge orifices may be necessary to enable the operator to pass over (or by) nontarget areas without contaminating them.

12.2. Backflow Prevention - All mixing or loading sites for spray equipment shall be equipped with a mechanism to prevent the back siphoning of pesticides into water sources. Mechanisms acceptable are backflow/anti-siphon valves in the plumbing system and/or an air gap between the top of the mixing tank and the water inlet hose.



AMERITURF
701 FRONT ST.
MARIETTA, OH 45750

740-373-7928

July 5, 2005

West Virginia Department Of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170

Dear Mr. Bishop:

We have been in business since December, 1979. I have been complying with the registered technician program ever since its inception. We hold "in house" training for our registered technicians several times a year. I think this is asking too much to require continuing education credits for our registered technicians.

Most of our registered technicians only last one season, and they work under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. It is already a hardship on this small business for me to give time off to attend classes for certified applicators during September in Morgantown.

I usually do not complain, but we need a break here not more regulations. I would also like for you to consider having classes during the winter months and even as close as Wood CO. There are enough companies working here or near Parkersburg to justify training closer. Unless all the newer companies are not licensed to begin with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Marr".

Dennis R. Marr
Owner/Manager
C00615



State of West Virginia

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 13, 2005

Mr. Dennis R. Marr
Ameriturf
701 Front Street
Marietta, OH 45750

In reply to: Your July 5, 2005 letter concerning proposed rule changes to Title 61 Series 12A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules.

Dear Mr. Marr,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. In your letter you mention that you hold "in house" training for your registered technicians several times a year. As proposed, the "in house" training you conduct, if pre-approved, would qualify for continuing education credit for your registered technicians. Should you need additional training for your registered technicians, you would have the opportunity to attend other training already available throughout the State from various trade associations. In addition, I would anticipate these same associations and West Virginia University Extension Service working to provide training opportunities solely for registered technician. Online training already approved for certified commercial applicator's would qualify for continuing education units as well.

In summary, the availability of training, including "in house" training, should offer ample opportunity to obtain the necessary continuing education should this rule become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit

P.O. Box 737
2400 Ritter Drive
Daniels, WV 25832
304-763-4573
304-763-4591 Fax



July 6, 2005

Attn: Mr. Grant Bishop, Assistant Director
Plant Industries Division, Pesticide Regulatory Program
WV Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0170

Dear Mr. Bishop:

This letter is written as comment on the proposed changes to Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. I wish to express my opposition to the amendment requiring registered technicians to obtain 4 continuing certification units for each category of certification per year. I base my opposition on the lack of any need for additional yearly training, which will add additional undue expenses for our business.

Our company, Aspen Corporation, is a larger landscape maintenance and installation contractor. We currently have approximately 10 registered pesticide technicians and 4 commercial applicators in our employ. We are very thorough and conscientious in our training and always make sure all employees complete the current training requirements. What this new amendment will mean is additional unnecessary expense for our business.

In my opinion, it would be more effective to enforce the current laws and regulations. In the past we have reported numerous contractors who were applying pesticides to clients properties with no training or certification completed. We got no results from this and were told the state was aware certain individuals were working without a license but the state either lacked the manpower, resources, or resolve to enforce this.

In conclusion, I believe this proposed amendment will add unnecessary costs and burden to respectable businesses, which will most likely increase the number of unlicensed contractors in operation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Mason'.

Edward S. Mason, CLP
Vice President-Landscape Division
Certified Landscape Professional
emason@aspen-landscaping.com

EM/ef

Cc: Jonathan Hall



State of West Virginia

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 18, 2005

Mr. Edward S. Mason
Aspen
P.O. Box 737
2400 Ritter Drive
Daniels, WV 25832

In reply to: Your July 6, 2005 letter concerning proposed rule changes to Title 61 Series 12A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules.

Dear Mr. Mason,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. Current regulations require that registered technicians receive training prior to registration and within 30 days of hire. Beyond this, there are no requirements for additional training. Proposed regulations would require continuing education of up to 4 CEUs (continuing education units) per year. This is a total of 2 hours of continuing education per year that could be obtained by attending training already available throughout the State from various trade associations. In addition, I would anticipate these same associations and West Virginia University Extension Service working to provide training opportunities solely for registered technician. Online training already approved for certified commercial applicator's would qualify for continuing education units as well and as proposed, any "in house" training you conduct, if pre-approved, would qualify for continuing education credit for your registered technicians. In summary this proposed rule amendment should not be seen as a burden for your company rather an opportunity to increase the skills and knowledge of your staff.

I now want to address your comments regarding reporting numerous contractors applying pesticides with no certification. We have and will continue to get complaints about unlicensed applicators. Sometimes, the only information that we receive is the name of the company that is believed to be in violation. This is often times not enough information to follow up on. If you see someone applying pesticides that you suspect is not licensed please attempt to get a phone number off of a placard or advertisement or get the actual location or address of the application site. With this type of information we can more easily follow up on complaints and don't have to spend time patrolling the streets looking for unlicensed applicators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit



Termite & Pest Control, Inc.

P. O. Drawer 389 • Pineville, West Virginia 24874 • Ph. 304-732-6298 WV Toll Free 1-800-726-2260
July 5, 2005

Mr. Grant Bishop, Asst. Director
Pesticide Regulatory Programs
Department of Agriculture
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170

Dear Grant,

I have some questions concerning the Title 61, Series 12A new Applicator Rules.

- 1.) Section 3.3.b.D. What does the Regulated Pesticide Application Business refer to? Is this for Commercial Businesses that are regulated
- 2.) Section 7.4. Concerning the continuing credit units, will this be handled like the blitz in January and June? My concerns are that these re-certification classes would be held at various points throughout the state (Beckley, Parkersburg, Huntington, Flat Woods, etc.) and not just one/two. Will this be offered all 6 hours per day (3 categories 8A, 8B, 8E at 2hours each) and how often will the "class" be given per year? Could this training be done on-line with certificates printed and sent to the Department? Our concern is that technicians will not have to drive 2-4 hours to attend a session.
- 3.) Or will this be something that companies can do in house if the content of the material to be covered is approved by the Department before the workshop/class? I am assuming that the PCOA submits a program for each workshop that the Department approves before the Blitz and Fall Workshop. Similar to the in house training we do with new technicians, this could be an ongoing training procedure submitted to the Department for each session we conduct.

These are our concerns about the regulations. We fully agree with the needed training. But we want to make this as convenient as possible for the technicians and the companies. Please let me know what you have in mind to cover these items. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Ron & Linda G. Phillips



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 18, 2005

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Phillips
Phillips' Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 389
Pineville, WV 24874

In reply to: Your July 5, 2005 letter concerning proposed rule changes to Title 61 Series 12A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules.

Dear Ron and Linda,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. You have very important concerns and the same concerns that we have, in particular that continuing education be readily available for registered technicians. This is why we propose continuing education requirements for registered technicians be structured just as it is with certified commercial, public and private applicators.

Your question number 1. Regarding section 3.3.b.D., a Regulated Pesticide Application Business is a business that applies pesticides to their own property and are not for hire. Examples of these are golf courses and state and local governments.

Your questions in number 2. Section 7.4 refers to continuing education requirements for registered technicians. The approval procedures for registered technician training would be the same as is currently in place for certified applicators. As long as training is preapproved, just as the blitzes in January and June, it would qualify for continuing education for registered technicians. Your concerns about the locations of training is a valid concern. I would anticipate associations, West Virginia University Extension Service and West Virginia State University working to provide training opportunities solely for registered technicians and available throughout the state. Yes, online training already approved for certified commercial applicators would qualify for continuing education units as well.

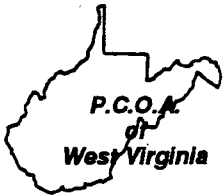
Your question in number 3. Yes, all workshops and "in house training" is preapproved for continuing education for certified applicators. The same procedure would be used for approving registered technician training programs. As long as a workshop or "in house" training is pre-approved it would qualify for continuing education credit for your registered technicians.

In summary, the availability of training, including "in house" training, should offer sufficient opportunity to obtain the necessary continuing education should this rule become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit



**PEST CONTROL OPERATORS ASSOCIATION
OF
WEST VIRGINIA**



Please Reply To:

July 11, 2005

Mr. Grant Bishop, Commissioner
WVDA Pesticide Regulatory Programs
Capitol Building
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

RE: Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules / Recertification

Dear Grant:

Regarding the following proposed regulation: Pest Control Operators Association of West Virginia Board of Directors Comments, **Title 61 Legislative Rule West Virginia Department of Agriculture Series 12A. Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. 61-12A-7 Recertification** (which now reads)

7.4 Registered Technicians-At no greater than a one year interval, each registered technician shall accrue at least four (4) continuing certification units (2 hours) of audience contact or participation on the subject matter contained in subsections 6.1 and 6.3 of this rule for each category or subcategory of registration each year prior to renewal.

We propose the following sentence be added:

"No more than two (2) units may be accrued through in-house training programs."

At a recent board of directors meeting, and numerous other board meetings, we have discussed this proposed regulation in depth. We believe it will prove to be helpful in eliminating some of the problems many of the states' businesses have experienced this past year. We further believe that this type of verifiable training, using the language we proposed, be added to help insure that registered technicians are receiving more than just the initial training they are currently required to have within thirty days of employment. In addition, this regulation will help insure the health and safety of the citizens of West Virginia and the applicator. We are in favor of the regulations if this language is added; otherwise, we oppose the regulation.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at 304-594-3030, Dexter Owsley, Sec./Treas. at 304-768-5637 or Tim Russell, Vice President, at 304-842-6122

Sincerely,

Sue Spiroff, President
WV Pest Control Operators Association

SS/bm
CC/ Dexter Owsley
Tim Russell



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 26, 2005

Mrs. Sue Spiroff, President
Pest Control Operators Association of West Virginia
24 Meadow View Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508

In reply to: Your July 11, 2005 letter concerning proposed rule changes to Title 61 Series 12A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules.

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules and in particular the accrual of continuing education units for registered technicians. In your letter you propose, out of 4 continuing education units, "No more than two (2) units may be accrued through in-house training programs." In order to have sufficient training available to the technicians of the State, it is our intent not to limit the opportunities to obtain credit from "in house" or "non in-house" training.

The number one complaint from pesticide businesses in the State is that training is not available without having to travel a great distance. If the amount of credit available through "in house" training is limited, additional "non in-house" training programs would have to be created by West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), West Virginia University Extension and West Virginia State University Extension and be available in more locations throughout the State. In addition, tracking the amount of "in house" versus "non in-house" training credits for each registered technician would require additional computer programming costs to WVDA.

In summary, it would pose an unnecessary burden on pesticide businesses to require a portion of credits as "non in-house".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit



Capon Springs and Farms

P.O. BOX 0
CAPON SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA 26823
(304) 874-3695

July 17, 2005

West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Plant Industries Division
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0190

I recently received your letter regarding proposed changes to Certified Applicator Rules which include the implementation of continuing education requirements for registered pest control technicians. I would like you to consider the following comments as you finalize those education requirements.

Last year, I completed the requirements to become a 4A Certified Applicator for our golf course here at Capon Springs. This year, I have held sessions, using the University of Maryland video series, to qualify our seven member golf course crew as registered technicians. The video series was well received and stimulated very valuable discussions on pesticide safety. Therefore, I am all in favor of continuing education for technicians. However, we are located more than one hour from any location where applicator training sessions are regularly held. It would be very impractical for our seven technicians to travel that distance for a two hour class. With that in mind, I am hoping that provisions will be included that allow for the certified applicator responsible for specific technicians to present continuing education programs, developed or approved by the Department of Agriculture, on site.

I appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes and hope you are considering situations like ours, and I'm sure many others, as the changes are implemented.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Budnyk
Capon Springs & Farms





State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 26, 2005

Mr. Peter R. Budnyk
Capon Springs Farms
P.O. Box O
Capon Springs, WV 26823

In reply to: Your July 17, 2005 letter concerning proposed rule changes to Title 61 Series 12A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules.

Dear Mr. Budnyk,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. I am glad to hear that you are in favor of continuing education for registered technicians and I want to address your concern about the locations of the training, including "on site" or "in house" training.

The approval procedures for registered technician training would be the same as is currently in place for certified applicators. As long as training is pre-approved it would qualify for continuing education for registered technicians. This would include "on site" or "in house" training. In addition, I would anticipate associations, West Virginia University Extension Service and West Virginia State University working to provide training opportunities solely for registered technicians and available throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
 Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
 Deputy Commissioner

June 28, 2005

Dear Owner/Manager:

Enclosed is a copy of Title 61, Series 12A Certified Applicator Rules. We are proposing amendments to the rules and have established a 30-day comment period beginning on June 28, 2005.

The proposed changes include implementation of continuing education requirements for registered pest control technicians. The amendment would require registered technicians to obtain 4 continuing certification units (2 hours) for each category or subcategory of certification per year.

Other amendments clarify experience and/or education requirements for persons applying to take the exam to become certified.

Written comments may be submitted to West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Plant Industries Division, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305-0190 by 4:00 p.m. on July 28, 2005.

Sincerely,

Grant Bishop

Grant Bishop
 Assistant Director
 Plant Industries Division
 Pesticide Regulatory Programs
 304-558-2209
 304-558-2228 fax

7/6/05 -
 Grant - the changes
 included with this memo
 appear OK to me.
Janet Fisher
 ORKIN PEST CONTROL



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 26, 2005

Mr. Jay Copen
Orkin Pest Control
5038 W. Washington St.
Cross Lanes, WV 25313

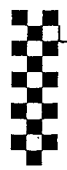
Dear Jay,

Thank you for your comment on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules Title 61, Series 12A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

June 29, 2005

Dear Owner/Manager:

Enclosed is a copy of Title 61, Series 12A Certified Applicator Rules. We are ~~proposing amendments to the rules and have established a 30-day comment period beginning on June 28, 2005.~~

The proposed changes include implementation of continuing education requirements for registered pest control technicians. The amendment would require registered technicians to obtain 4 continuing certification units (2 hours) for each category or subcategory of certification per year.

Other amendments clarify experience and/or education requirements for persons applying to take the exam to become certified.

Written comments may be submitted to West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Plant Industries Division, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305-0190 by 4:00 p.m. on July 28, 2005.

Sincerely,

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Plant Industries Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs
304-558-2209
304-558-2228 fax

Grant,
I agree with these
amendments.

Phyllis Justice
Orkin / Huntington



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 26, 2005

Ms. Phyllis Justice
Orkin Pest Control
855 Adams Avenue
Huntington, WV 25704

Dear Ms. Justice,

Thank you for your comment on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules Title 61, Series 12A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit



P.O. Box 10249
Lynchburg, VA 24506
Phone: (434) 847-9051
Fax: (434) 847-2034

July 27, 2005

Grant Bishop, Assistant Director
Plant Industries Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs
WV Department of Agriculture
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170

Dear Mr. Bishop,

This letter is in response to your letter of June 28, 2005 regarding proposed amendments to the Title 61, Series 12A Certified Applicator Rules and the 30-day comment period.

The new "3.3.b.D. Exemption. Employees of Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses are exempt from the provisions of this section." The problem with this statement is:

1. People who provide pest management services are defined by the United States government as pesticide applicators.
2. By licensing category, the state of WV recognizes at least the certified applicator as being an applicator by definition.
3. Employees in our industry are definitely employees of regulated pesticide application businesses. We are regulated by the US EPA via the WV Dept. of Agriculture, and are required by WV to have a business license and/or applicator's license (registered tech, certified applicator, etc.)
4. Therefore, as written, we are all exempt from these provisions/requirements of the 3.3 section.
5. 3.3.b.D needs to be carefully rewritten and possibly definitions of certain words or phrases need to be added.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Smith, PhD, BCE
Director of Technical Services



DODSON BROS. EXTERMINATING CO., INC.
Corporate Offices Lynchburg, Virginia Established, 1944

Serving Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia & District of Columbia



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 27, 2005.

Dr. Eric H. Smith
Dodson Pest Control
P.O. Box 10249
Lynchburg, VA 24506

Dear Dr. Smith,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules Title 61, Series 12A. Section 3.3.b.D. of the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules references Regulated Pesticide Application Businesses (RPAB). Pesticide businesses, including RPAB, are defined in Title 61, Series 12B Licensing of Pesticide Businesses. In section 4.3.a. RPAB is defined as a pesticide business applying pesticides not for hire. An example of such pesticide business would be a golf course.

Employees in your industry are employees of Licensed Pesticide Application Businesses (LPAB) and are not exempt from the provisions in 3.3. An LPAB is a pesticide business commercially applying pesticides for hire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Bishop".

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit

West Virginia Vegetation Management Association

B. Scott Bennett
APCo
President

Keith Lynch, Secretary- Treasurer
WV DOT
HC 65 Box 280
Mt. Zion, WV 26151

Gerald Lewis
UAP Timberland
Vice-President

RECEIVED

July 13, 2005

JUL 27 2005

JB

Mr. Grant Bishop, Assistant Director
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Pesticide Regulatory Programs
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0190

Dear Grant,

Please find enclosed, and per your request, a response to the revised "Draft" version of the changes to Title 61 Legislative Rule of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture from the West Virginia Vegetation Management Association. Please contact myself or any member of the board you may be in contact with in order to provide our organization any further direction as to how we may continue our involvement in this process.

On behalf of the board and the Association, I thank you for inviting our comments. Further, I thank you, and the Commissioner, for your continued support of our organization. Let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



B. Scott Bennett, President
West Virginia Vegetation Management Association

cc: Keith Lynch, Secretary



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

July 27, 2005

West Virginia Vegetation Management Association
C/O Mr. B. Scott Bennett
American Electric Power
P.O. Box 1986
Charleston, WV 25327-1986

In reply to: Your July 13, 2005 letter concerning proposed rule changes to Title 61 Series 12A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules.

Dear Scott,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. In your letter you mention that continuing certification training would be a burden to contractors that employ large numbers of registered technicians. You then mention these same contractors are currently under obligation, both internally and by their employers, to provide similar such training. If pre-approved, the training that these contractors are already providing, would qualify for continuing education credit for their registered technicians. In addition, pre-approved training provided at the Annual Vegetation Management Association meeting and pre-approved online training would qualify for continuing certification units as well.

In summary, given the availability of training opportunities, including training already being done internally by employers, we do not see this rule placing a burden on contractors that employ a large number of registered technicians.

Sincerely,

Grant Bishop
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division
Pesticide Regulatory Programs Unit

THE WEST VIRGINIA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION'S
COMMENTS TO THE "DRAFT" CHANGES OF
TITLE 61 LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The views and opinions presented herein are those of the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Vegetation Management Association, acting officials elected as representatives for the Association by the Association. These views and opinions may or may not be shared by the members of the Association individually.

Introduction:

The West Virginia Vegetation Management Association (initially called the West Virginia Weed Control Association) was formed in the spring of 1965, when it held its first meeting. Utility vegetation managers perceived a need for an annual meeting where the complex problems of vegetation management could be discussed. It was expected that information on new herbicides and new control methods would be shared, and this Association would become a mechanism through which information could be disseminated to the public concerning herbicides, their safety, and use.

Therefore, the purpose of the West Virginia Vegetation Management Association is to collect and distribute accurate, current information on integrated vegetation management (IVM) strategy and research. To assist in vegetation management recommendations made to state and federal agencies. To encourage IVM practices, including the proper use and application of herbicides as an aid in fostering mutual understanding and respect among those engaged in vegetation management research, regulation, manufacturing, distribution and use of pesticides in the state of West Virginia.

The West Virginia Vegetation Management Association meets annually in West Virginia at a predetermined location. The association extends open membership to the public. The association annually gives two student education assistance awards, the Dr. Kenneth Carvell student award and the Roger Latham Memorial award. The association's annual meeting provides recertification credits to herbicide applicator licenses in multiple states.

The West Virginia Vegetation Management Association applauds the efforts of the Pesticide Regulatory Program staff in their attempt to attain a fair and thorough rule to govern the safe use of pesticides as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IVM) program. To support in this effort, the West Virginia Vegetation Management Association is providing comment to the draft.

Comments:

1. Regarding Series 12A-7 **Recertification**, specifically 7.4 Registered Technicians

There is a proposed addition to the rule that states, "*At no greater than a one-year interval, each registered technician shall accrue 4 continuing certification units (2 hours) of audience contact...on the subject matter contained in sub-sections 6.1 and 6.3*".

It is the opinion of this Association that a rule of this nature would be a burden to contractors and state wide divisions who employ large numbers of registered technicians. Contractors of this size are currently under obligation, both internally and by their employers, to provide similar such training.

2. Regarding Series 12J-4 **Integrated Pest Management Program for Schools**, specifically 4.8.

There is no proposed change to the rule; however, it is the request of this Association that, while this process to supersede the entire rule is taking place, "utility right of ways" be named in the list of areas considered exempt from the requirements of the rule. It could be stated that in order to be exempt, the right of way must be maintained in accordance with all West Virginia Department of Agriculture rules and regulations.