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# THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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## Spray Rig & Equipment Repair Shops

*What kind of information must be given? (California Code of Regulations §6744)*

The definition of pesticide handler was expanded a few years ago to include: "maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment... that may contain [pesticide] residues..." This definition of a handler includes mechanics working on spray equipment.

Whenever equipment that has held a pesticide goes into the shop, the person in charge of the shop must be given information about the pesticides that were in the tank. Mechanics need to be told of the hazards they may encounter and how they can protect themselves. You may wish to give the owner of the shop a copy of the pesticide label and MSDS so that he can provide training to his staff on the health effects and safety precautions that must be taken while working with and around pesticide spray equipment.

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## Agricultural Pesticide Use Records

*California Code of Regulations §6624*

All pest control companies are required to keep pesticide use records. So, what kind of information do you need to record?

- 1) The date of application
- 2) Name of the operator of the property treated
- 3) Location of the treated property
- 4) Crop commodity, or site treated
- 5) Total acreage or units treated at the site
- 6) Pesticide, including EPA number, and the amount used.

All of this information can be recorded using several documents; it is not necessary to have it all on one form. For example, many companies will give their client a number, or will have a number representing a certain pesticide to save space on their forms. As long as you can cross-reference and supply our office with all of the required information, there is no problem with using multiple pieces of paper and/or computer files to record the information.

The problem most commonly found with use records is the omission of the site treated, and the area or units treated at the site. When a technician goes out to a client's property, they should make note of what they are spraying. The more detail you provide regarding the "site treated" will serve to your benefit should there be questions regarding what portions of the property were treated. If your company is performing a spot spray on a lawn area, or sidewalk cracks, etc, writing, "spot spray" on your form is acceptable.

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If your company applies pesticides to an **agricultural commodity** there is additional information that is required:

- 1) Location of the property by section, township, range, meridian. (This information is found on the grower's permit)
- 2) Hour the treatment was completed
- 3) The Operator Identification number or permit number of the grower.
- 4) The site identification number for the site treated
- 5) Total acreage or units treated at the site
- 6) Name or identity of the person(s) who made and supervised the application

\*Side Note\* Agricultural pest control companies that apply a pesticide to a production agricultural site must submit a pesticide use report to our office within a week of the application.

## Structural Branch II & III Pesticide Use Records

*Title 16, §1970(b)*

What kind of use record information are structural companies required to keep?

- 1) Date of treatment
- 2) Name of owner or his or her agent
- 3) Address of the property
- 4) Description of the area treated
- 5) Target pest(s)
- 6) Pesticide and amount used
- 7) Identity of the person(s) who applied the pesticide.

\* These use records are required to be kept for 3 years.

The most common problem our department finds with structural use records is the omission of the target pest, and the description of the area treated.



## Agricultural Licensees

*Change in 3CCR Section 6510*

California Code of Regulations Section 6510 is the code section that covers the issuance of licenses and certificates by DPR. This code section affects all individuals with a valid Aircraft Pilot Certificate, Qualified Applicator License, Qualified Applicator Certificate, or Agricultural Pest Control Advisor License.

Many of you already knew this was coming, but as of May 18, 2002 it became official. If you do not complete all of your continuing education hours before your license expires, you will lose your license and you will have to re-apply for a new one.

Section 6510 now reads as follows: "A person who has not possessed a valid license or certificate within 12 months of the date of application or has a valid license or certificate and has not completed the continuing education requirements within each two-year license or certificate period as specified in Section 6511 shall not be allowed to renew his or her license or certificate and shall be required to submit an application for a new license and pass the examinations before being issued a license or certificate."

## Bait Stations and Labeling

*What is required?*

A topic that frequently comes up in our office is labeling requirements for bait stations. Whether it is a ground squirrel or an ant bait station, if you can open it to fill it with a pesticide, the bait station is considered a service container. The only bait stations that do not require labeling are bait stations used by farmers on their farm property, and manufacturer sealed bait stations. Manufacturer sealed bait stations are those that do not require refilling and are things such as self-contained ant stakes, etc.

So what are the labeling requirements?

### Agricultural Companies:

- 1) The bait station must either be placed in locations not accessible to children, pets, and domestic animals, or must be secured to prevent spillage and tampering. (This requirement is found on pesticide bait labels.)

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## The Spider Myth

*The truth about the Brown Recluse spider.*

The Brown Recluse spider is frequently blamed for necrotic type wounds in the San Francisco Bay Area. These diagnoses are usually made from doctors examining an infection or possible bite site and not from the proper identification of a spider. The most telling factor in this miss-diagnosis however, is the fact that the Brown Recluse spider does not occur in California! "Brown Recluse" is the name for a particular species of recluse spider, *Loxosceles reclusa*. There have been 10 Brown Recluse captures in California in the past four decades, but all 10 were explained as "stow-a-ways" from out-of-state shipments. Extensive search around each of the find sites did not turn up a population of Brown Recluses.

California is home to 5 recluse spiders, 4 native and 1 non-native. The most common native recluse, *L. deserta*, lives in the southeastern portion of the State in dry arid areas and is not as toxic as the Brown Recluse. Conditions in the Bay Area are not conducive to supporting a population of this species of spider and there have been no reported finds in this area. The other 3 native recluses are very rare and are only found in Southern California. We have 1 non-native recluse, *L. laeta*, which has become established in the Pasadena area. *L. laeta* is originally from South America and there have been no verified bites from this toxic recluse.

### Identification

Recluse spiders have 4 features that set it apart from other spiders. First, most spiders have 8 eyes, but recluse spiders have 6. Second, the abdomen of recluse spiders are uniformly colored. Third, their legs are covered with fine hairs whereas non-recluse spiders will sometimes have spines. The fourth feature, which is the most widely known feature of recluses, is the violin or fiddle marking on the cephalothorax. There are other species of six-eyed spiders that may fit some of these features but only a recluse will fit all four.

**Close up of the  
Desert Recluse:**



## Bait Stations and Labeling

- 2) According to CCR Section 6678, service containers must be labeled with the following:
  - a) The name and address of the person or firm responsible for the container.
  - b) The identity of the pesticide
  - c) Signal word ("Danger", "Warning" or "Caution") in accordance with the label on the original pesticide container.

### Structural Companies:

Structural companies are required to have the same information on bait stations, as well as one extra piece of information. Structural companies must have their phone number listed with their name and address on the container.

Structural bait station requirements are found in Title 16 of the Professional and Vocations Regulations, Section 1983(i). Compliance with Section 1983(i) ensures compliance with the service container labeling code section found in 3CCR 6678 because you are providing all of the required information on the service container label.

It was brought to our attention that the Structural Board was considering re-working Section 1983. Be aware that if the Structural Board should eliminate the requirement of bait station labeling in Section 1983(i), structural companies will still be required to label bait stations because of California Code of Regulations Section 6678. (Essentially, you would be required to list all of the information currently required, except for your phone number.)

## Question Corner:

Is there anything you would like to see addressed in this newsletter? Do you have any questions or comments? Please write to the address below:

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