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# THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture

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## Changing Your License To Reflect an Address or Name Change

*Notifying the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)*

California Code of Regulations Section 6508 requires pest control businesses and licensees to notify DPR of any changes to their address, name, business organization, or any other matter shown in the license application.

If you need a change of address form, you can call our office for a copy, or you can download the change of address form from DPR's website:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/l&c-002.pdf>

There is no cost to update your information. However, DPR now charges a \$20.00 fee if you request a copy of your license or certificate.

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## Certified Commercial Applicators and Training

*Licensees are considered trained*

California Code of Regulations Section 6724 requires employers to assure their employees who handle pesticides have been trained prior to handling a pesticide. This code section further states, "a certified applicator is considered trained for the purposes of this section."

Definition of a certified applicator:

California Code of Regulations, Section 6000 defines a certified commercial applicator as someone that has a:

1. Qualified Applicator License
2. Qualified Applicator Certificate
3. Structural Operator License
4. Structural Field Representative License
5. Journeyman Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Certificate

**\*\* Note- Licensed Structural Pest Control Applicators are not on this list!**

Employer Responsibilities:

Even though certified applicators are considered trained, our department suggests that you train your certified applicators at least once, preferably at the time of hire. Reviewing your training program with your licensed employees will help you satisfy a portion of the requirements found in California Code of Regulations Section 6702. This code section requires employers to assure all of their employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the law, regulations, and product labeling.

# California Department of Food & Agriculture Pest Quarantines

## *Pest rating system*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has an extensive pest rating system, which encompasses insects, plants, animals, and diseases. Thousands of organisms have been assigned a rating, and the State uses this rating system to rank pests by their known or potential destructive capability. Having this pre-set rating system helps the State act quickly when a destructive pest is found in the State.

There are 5 pest ratings: A, B, C, D, and Q.

- "A" is a rating given to well-known destructive pests that do not occur in California. Quarantine regulations are established for most "A-rated" pests. The State will take immediate control actions if they are detected in California. Examples of A-rated pests are things such as Mediterranean fruit fly, Japanese beetle, gypsy moth, ozonium root rot, and burrowing nematode. In addition to quarantines, the State has an extensive detection trapping system monitoring for the presence of these pests.
- "B" is a rating given to pests with a limited distribution in the State. B-rated pests are controlled at the discretion of the county agricultural commissioner. A good example of a B-rated pest is the glassy-winged sharpshooter.
- "C" is given to pests of general distribution in the State. Argentine ants are an example of a C-rated pest.
- "D" is given to beneficials. Spiders and ladybugs are examples of organisms in this rating.
- "Q" is a rating given to pests with the potential to be destructive, but there is not enough research to know what kind of damage they could do in this State. Q-rated pests are usually treated as an "A" and will be immediately evaluated if they are discovered in this State. Q-rated pests do not have their own written quarantine until they are deemed significant enough to be rated as an "A". A few examples of Q-rated pests our County has intercepted in shipments are big-headed ants, Jack Beardsley mealy bug, fig wax scale, trilobe scale, croton white fly, and a tortricid moth.

## Cuban Land Snail

*Zachrysia provisoria*



Last winter, one of our ranchers in the hills of north San Jose brought a snail to our office that was "taking over his property". We had never seen the snail before, so we sent it to the lab in Sacramento. When the lab results came back, we learned the snail was a *Zachrysia provisoria*, and was not native to California. This snail's common name is the Cuban Land Snail and it's native to Cuba and South America. This snail was introduced to Florida in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Several biologists from our office drove out to the rancher's property and surveyed the neighborhood to see how far the Cuban Land Snails had spread. We discovered it hadn't moved too far into the developed neighborhoods but was widespread in the hills above this rancher's property. These snails are very active in the winter and were crawling over the driveway, house, and vegetation on this rancher's property. The rancher said it was the third year he has seen this snail and it's most active when it's wet or cool outside.

The Cuban land snail is common in Florida. We believe the snail found its way here by hitchhiking on Florida nursery stock. It is difficult to determine how and when this pest arrived to this area due to the size of the infestation.

When we submitted this snail to the lab, it was originally given a rating of "Q" and the State immediately evaluated the snail. After studying this pest, the State recently told us they would be downgrading the snail.

As a side note, the State mentioned these snails would not eat snail bait. Liquid metaldehyde may be the only means to control this nuisance pest.

## Pest Identification

*State Diagnostics Laboratory*

If you find an insect, weed, or plant disease you've never seen before, and you can't find the pest in your field guide or reference books, we have a solution for you! Bring a sample of the pest to your local Agricultural Commissioner's Office. We can send your sample to the State Lab and have the experts identify the pest for you. This service is free, but please bring in pests you have already attempted to identify. Overwhelming the lab with samples will lead to longer return times.

# Fumigation Warning Signs

Posting fumigated structures



We have recently found a few fumigation sites with warning sign non-compliances. Several structures under passive aeration had warning signs on all the entrances of the structure, but not on all sides of the structure. The side of the house must be posted even if the side has no door or entrance into the structure.

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 1974 (a) states:

*"(a) Prior to sealing a structure which is to be fumigated, fumigation warning signs shall be posted on the structure at or near all entrances and on each side of the structure and kept at those locations until the structure is declared to be safe for re-occupancy by the licensee exercising direct and personal supervision over the fumigation."*

In addition to posting the structure, fumigation tarps must also be posted with signs. The signs must be placed on all tarp seams, all accessible sides, and from any direction the site may be approached. Section 1974 (b) states:

*"(b) Fumigation warning signs shall also be placed on the outside surface of the tarps used to seal the structure and shall be clearly visible on all accessible sides of the space under fumigation and from any direction from which the site may be approached. Additional fumigation warning signs shall be posted at all joint seams of the tarp on the first floor level."*

## Contact Corner

If you have questions, comments, or would like to suggest a subject for an article, please write to:

Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture  
The Pesticide Review  
1553 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112

Or e-mail us: [sccagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us](mailto:sccagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us)

## From the Question File:

Recent questions from pest control companies...

**"Can No Foam B be used for structural uses or is it limited to agricultural uses only?"**

DPR recently published an enforcement letter addressing the question concerning the use of No Foam B, EPA Reg No: CA-1050775-50008-AA. DPR stated that the labeling under "Directions for Use" indicates "various agricultural chemicals" as the "sites" or "objects" to be treated. Therefore, No Foam B is registered for use with agricultural chemicals only. Any use with structural use pesticides is prohibited.

**"I apply pesticides to a golf course in Santa Clara County. This golf course is being managed by a company that is leasing the land. With DPR's new written recommendation policy, can the golf course write their own recommendation or do they have to supply me with a registered PCA recommendation?"**

The golf course does not need to supply you with a PCA recommendation. Even though the golf management company does not own the land they lease, they have control of the property and are therefore considered property operators. Because DPR's policy allows property operators to make their own pesticide decisions on the land they control, they are not required to obtain a PCA recommendation.

That being the case, how are PCO's going to stay in compliance with California Code of Regulations Section 6632? This code section requires PCO's to have available a copy of both the use permit and written recommendation prior to applying a California Restricted Material to an agricultural site.

In the case that a golf course hires a PCO to apply a restricted material, they will need to provide the PCO with something in writing. This can be something as simple as writing down the name of the pesticide they want the PCO to use and the rate. Property operators do not have to satisfy the conditions of a written recommendation found in Food and Agricultural Code Section 12003. Code sections outlining written recommendation requirements are directed to licensed PCA's. There are no code requirements dictating how growers, property owners/operators are to write their own directives/recommendations.

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The Pesticide Review is published by the Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture. This newsletter is published several times a year and is directed towards registered pest control companies in Santa Clara County.

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