



PUBLIC SCHOOL IPM AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Legislation was passed in 1998 which requires public schools to adopt integrated pest management (IPM) systems and to develop parental and staff notification programs by the 1999-2000 school year. The following is a summary of the regulations developed to implement the new law.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Each county board of education must implement in its schools an IPM system that has been approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Integrated pest management, as defined in law, means "a managed pest control program in which methods are integrated and used to keep pests from causing economic, health related, or aesthetic injury through the utilization of site or pest inspections, pest population monitoring, evaluating the need for control, and the use of one or more pest control methods including sanitation, structural repair, nonchemical methods, and pesticides, when nontoxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted, in order to minimize the use of pesticides and the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications". MDA has developed uniform standards for implementing IPM in schools. The IPM system must include the following components:

- ✎ An IPM policy
- ✎ Pest management roles and responsibilities
- ✎ Pest control procedures
- ✎ Inspection and monitoring procedures
- ✎ Standards to determine severity of pest infestation
- ✎ Records of pest sightings, pest control procedures, communications about IPM or pesticide use
- ✎ Pest management strategies, i.e., sanitation, structural repair, nonchemical methods, and pesticide application
- ✎ Annual evaluation of IPM strategies
- ✎ Notification procedures

For further details, refer to MDA's "Integrated Pest Management in Schools - IPM Training Manual".

NOTIFICATION

Effective August 1999, public schools have to provide certain information to parents or guardians of students in the schools, to students and to staff members about the school's IPM system and about pesticide applications in school buildings. Notification requirements vary, depending on the grade level of the school, type of pesticide applied and pesticide application method.

SCHOOL CALENDAR NOTICE

At the beginning of each school year, public schools must send a notice to each parent or guardian of students in primary and secondary schools. The notice can be printed in a document such as the school calendar or newsletter. The notice must include the following information:

- ✎ Explanation of the school system's IPM program
- ✎ List of pesticides or bait stations used in school buildings
- ✎ Name, address, and telephone number of contact person
- ✎ Statement that the contact person keeps copies of labels and material safety data sheets (MSDS) of pesticide products used in school buildings and that the labels and MSDS are available for review
- ✎ Instructions for parents or guardians and staff on how to enroll on a pesticide notification list to receive prior notice of pesticide applications

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION LIST

Parents or guardians of middle school or high school students and staff members employed by middle schools and high schools must submit a written request to the school to receive notification of pesticide applications. Middle schools and high schools are required to develop a pesticide notification list, keep it current, and make it available to MDA on request.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parents or guardians of elementary school students and staff members employed by elementary schools must be notified at least 24 hours before a pesticide is applied in a school building. If an emergency pest situation arises and a pesticide is applied, notification must be made within 24 hours of the application. The following information must be provided as part of the notification:

- ✎ Common name of pesticide applied
- ✎ Location, date and time of application
- ✎ Description of potential adverse effects listed on the MSDS
- ✎ The following statement: "The Office of Pesticide Programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated: *'Where possible, persons who potentially are more sensitive, such as pregnant women and infants (less than two years old), should avoid any unnecessary pesticide exposure'*"
- ✎ Reason for emergency application (if applicable)

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Parents or guardians of middle school or high school students and staff members employed by middle schools and high schools who are on the pesticide notification list will be notified by the school 24 hours before a pesticide is applied. Notification must occur within 24 hours after an emergency pesticide application. The notice provided to individuals on the pesticide notification list is the same notice given by elementary schools. The school can provide the notification by a written notice sent home with the student or provided to a staff member, a telephone call, direct contact or a written notice mailed three days before the application.

SPACE SPRAYING

A space spray is a pesticide that is discharged into the air throughout an entire room or area by a fogger or aerosol device, usually to control flying or crawling insects. Before a space spray can be used in any school, the school must notify each parent or guardian and staff member one week before the pesticide is applied. The notice must include the same information as the other notices previously described.

IN-SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

Middle schools and high schools must provide in-school notification, by oral announcements or written notice, before a pesticide is applied. A sign or notice must be posted at the room or area that is treated and either at the primary entrance to the school or in a central location.

When bait stations (containers enclosing an insecticide or rodenticide bait) are used in elementary, middle or high schools, schools must post a sign or notice on the door of the room or at the primary entrance to the treatment area.

The notice or sign posted as part of the in-school notification must include the following information:

- ✎ *"Caution--Pesticide Application"*
- ✎ Common name of pesticide applied
- ✎ Location and date of pesticide application or date bait station was placed
- ✎ Contact person for additional information, including information on potential adverse effects

The notice or sign must remain posted for at least 48 hours after the pesticide is applied or until the bait station is removed.



For More Information Contact The:

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Pesticide Regulation Section

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