

Introduction

The Ministry of Environment recently amended the Integrated Pest Management Regulation (IPMR) to further regulate the sale and use of pesticides. **The amendments will come into force on July 1, 2016.**

The changes ensure that pesticides used in outdoor landscaped areas are applied by trained people as part of an IPM program, or are pesticides generally considered safe for use by untrained people.

After July 1, 2016:

Requiring a licence

- A pesticide licence is still required to **offer a service** applying most pesticides.
- A pesticide licence is still required to apply most pesticides to landscaping on **public** land.
- A licence is now also required to apply most pesticides to landscapes on **private commercial** land. This includes lawns, fairways, flower beds and ornamental trees and shrubs at golf courses, botanical gardens and cemeteries.
- Commercial property owners have choices. They may choose to hire a licensee, obtain their own licence, or use pesticides that do not require a licence.
- A licence is not required for property owners using Domestic class glyphosate to treat: plants that are poisonous for humans to touch (e.g., poison ivy, poison oak); invasive plants and noxious weeds listed in legislation; and weeds growing through cracks in hard surfaces. However, offering a service applying Domestic class glyphosate requires a licence.
- To obtain a licence, at least one person in the organization must be appropriately certified and a yearly fee is required.
- Licensees must: ensure applicators are certified or supervised by a certificate holder, follow environmental protection requirements listed in the IPMR, maintain daily records regarding pesticide application, and submit an annual summary of pesticide use.
- For more information on how to obtain a licence and the requirements when working under the IPMR, see the [Landscape Sector Review Paper](#) on the IPM website at www.gov.bc.ca/PestManagement.

Key Points – After July 1, 2016:

- ➔ A licence is required to apply most pesticides to landscaped areas on private land.
- ➔ You have choices when managing pests. You can hire a licensed company, obtain a licence or use a product that does not require a licence.
- ➔ Businesses must have certified staff to obtain a licence. Licensees must use IPM, follow environmental protection requirements and keep records.
- ➔ Everyone who applies pesticides must be certified or complete specific training.
- ➔ You must post signs when treating landscaped areas on private land that the public may be expected to access.
- ➔ You must comply with relevant municipal pesticide bylaws.
- ➔ The new requirements will not come into force until July 1, 2016.
- ➔

Notification – Private Commercial Land

- Licensees must now provide notice to the public when applying pesticides to landscapes on private commercial land that the public may be expected to access. This includes walkways and recreational areas, fairways, etc.
- Licensees must post signs to notify the public and these signs must meet the standards already required for similar spaces on **public** land. For example, the signs must be visible to members of the public approaching a treated area, and include information about the pesticides used and how to get further details, if needed.

Schedules 2 & 5

- Schedule 2 is an existing list of pesticides that are excluded from certain requirements in the IPMR. There are several reasons why a pesticide may be listed in Schedule 2, such as it is regulated in other ways or only used in very specific circumstances by highly trained individuals.
- Schedule 5 is a new list of Domestic class pesticides that are considered safe to use without additional training.
- You do not require a licence to use Schedule 2 or 5 pesticides on your own land.
- In addition, a licence **is not** required to **offer a service** using Schedule 2 pesticides. However, a licence **is** required to **offer a service** applying pesticides listed on Schedule 5.

Training for Assistant Applicators

- A certified applicator can still supervise up to four uncertified individuals. However, these uncertified assistants are now required to complete specific training to ensure they can safely apply pesticides.
- Licensees must use the Ministry's online course and exam to meet this requirement. The course and exam will be offered free of charge. Ministry staff are in the process of developing the course and plan to have it available before the new requirements come into force.
- Assistant applicators must refresh their training annually.
- Licensees and certified applicators acting as supervisors are responsible for confirming that assistant applicators have completed the course.
- Licensees are responsible for documenting completion of the course by assistant applicators.

Municipal Bylaws

- The changes to the IPMR do not override municipal bylaws. If a municipality you are working in has restrictions on the landscape use of pesticides, they must be followed.

Next Steps

- The Ministry understands that businesses will require time to prepare for these changes. For this reason the new requirements will not come into force until July 1, 2016.
- For more information about the regulation and appropriate use of pesticides in British Columbia, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/PestManagement. Guidance documents for users and vendors of pesticides are available on this website.