

Introduction

This guidance is intended to promote awareness of regulatory requirements that apply to vendors operating under different business models, and to ensure consistency of the rules surrounding the sale of pesticides in B.C.

Under the *Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Act*, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the ministry) regulates the sale and use of pesticides in B.C. To sell most pesticides, vendors are required to obtain a pesticide vendor licence from the ministry and must have a certified pesticide dispenser interact with a customer prior to purchase.

Vendors may choose to sell pesticides remotely; that is, by means that are not face-to-face with the customers. Examples include internet sales or phone orders. Regardless of the purchasing method, it is the responsibility of the vendor and certified dispenser to ensure all requirements are met.

Vendor Licensing

- A vendor licence is required to sell all pesticides except those listed in Schedule 2 – Excluded Pesticides of the IPM Regulation.
- This includes sales within B.C. **and sales from out of province to customers located in B.C.**
- One or more certified dispensers must be employed to obtain a vendor licence.
- The vendor licence and pesticide dispenser certificate must be obtained in B.C. and are not transferable from other jurisdictions.
- An applicant for a B.C. vendor licence must maintain a B.C. address at which legal documents may be sent.

Purchaser Verification

- A vendor is responsible for verifying that the customer is legally qualified to purchase the pesticide. A “remote” vendor must have a method in place to verify any applicable purchaser requirements.
- A customer must be 16 years of age or older to purchase a pesticide.
- To purchase any restricted labeled pesticide, a customer must hold a valid pesticide applicator’s certificate. To purchase any permit-restricted pesticide, a customer must hold a valid pesticide applicator’s certificate as well as a valid pesticide use permit from the ministry.

Key Points:

- ➔ Regulatory requirements apply to anyone selling pesticides, whether selling face-to-face or remotely.
- ➔ A licence is required to sell all pesticides, except those listed on Schedule 2 – Excluded Pesticides.
- ➔ Certified dispensers must interact with customers prior to the purchase of a pesticide.
- ➔ Vendors outside of B.C. are subject to provincial requirements, if selling to customers in B.C.
- ➔ A vendor licence and dispenser certificate must be obtained in B.C. and are not transferable from other jurisdictions.
- ➔ Electronic records of required documentation may be accepted to authenticate purchaser qualifications when required.
- ➔ Dispensers must complete required elements of an interaction with the customer **verbally** before a pesticide may be purchased.

- Electronic copies of required documentation may be accepted. It is the responsibility of the vendor to ensure the information is and remains complete, accurate and valid.

Dispenser-Customer Interaction

- Before completing a pesticide sale, a certified dispenser is required to:
 - inform purchasers that the pesticide may only be used according to the label
 - inform the customer that a provincial licence or certificate may be required to use the pesticide; and that municipal bylaws may restrict the use of the pesticide
 - offer to provide advice on pest management and the safe use of pesticides
 - confirm the intended use of the pesticide is appropriate according to the label directions
- Regardless of the business model, this interaction must be completed **verbally** to allow for back-and-forth engagement between the certified dispenser and the customer. A phone conversation may satisfy this requirement for remote sales.
- If a customer does not provide sufficient information to confirm the intended use is appropriate, a vendor must not sell the pesticide. It is not the responsibility of the vendor or certified dispenser to verify that the information the customer provides is accurate.
- Vendors and certified dispensers do not need to be familiar with the details of local bylaws or confirm that the proposed use is allowed in a municipality. They must simply notify customers of the potential for further local restrictions. It is the responsibility of the customer to verify with their municipality if the intended use is allowed.

Record keeping and Reporting

- Vendors must record information for each sale of commercial and restricted labeled pesticides, and report to the ministry the total quantities of commercial, restricted and permit-restricted pesticides sold in each calendar year.
- This requirement applies to all licenced vendors, including those located inside B.C. as well as those located outside of B.C. selling to B.C. customers.
- This requirement **does not apply** to pesticides listed on Schedule 2.

Pesticide Storage

- All pesticides stored in B.C. are subject to regulatory requirements to ensure storage in a manner that minimizes hazards to human health and the environment.
- Licenced vendors are subject to additional requirements when storing pesticides at a business location within B.C., except those listed in Schedule 2 – Excluded Pesticides.
- For pesticides stored outside of B.C., vendors must be aware of applicable requirements in their local jurisdiction.

Questions?

- For more information about the sale and regulation of pesticides in B.C., please visit our website at www.gov.bc.ca/PestManagement or email bc.ipm@gov.bc.ca.