

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 are applied by trained people as part of an IPM program, or are pesticides generally considered safe for use by untrained people.

Most of the changes relate to the use of pesticides in landscaped areas. However, some changes affect industrial land managers who use pesticides.

After July 1, 2016:

Requiring a licence

- A pesticide licence is still required to **offer a service** applying most pesticides.
- A licence or Pest Management Plan (PMP) is still required to apply most pesticides on **public** land.
- A licence is now also required to apply pesticides to landscaped areas on **private** land, including outside office buildings and other facilities.
- Property managers have choices. They can choose to hire a licensed company, obtain their own licence, or use certain pesticides that do not require a licence.
- For more information on how to obtain a licence and the requirements when working under the IPMR, see the [Industrial Vegetation Sector Review Paper](http://www.gov.bc.ca/IndustrialVegetationSectorReviewPaper) on the IPM website at www.gov.bc.ca/PestManagement.

Notification – Private Commercial Land

- Licensees and confirmation holders must still provide notification when applying pesticides to public land and to private land used for specific industrial purposes.
- Notification must also be provided before pesticides are applied to landscapes on private commercial land that the public may be expected to access. This includes walkways and recreational areas, etc.
- Signs posted must meet the standards already required for similar spaces on **public** land.

Key Points – After July 1, 2016:

- ➔ A licence is required to apply most pesticides in landscaped areas on private land, including outside offices.
- ➔ Signs must be posted before treating landscaped areas on private land the public may access.
- ➔ Everyone who applies pesticides needs to be certified or trained. Licensees and PMP holders must ensure assistant applicators complete a course and keep records.
- ➔ You still need to comply with municipal pesticide bylaws.
- ➔ The new requirements will not come into force until July 1, 2016.

Schedule 5

- Schedule 5 is a new list of Domestic class pesticides that are considered safe to use without additional training.
- People can apply Schedule 5 pesticides to the land they own or manage without the need for a licence or certificate.
- A licence **is** required to **offer a service** applying pesticides listed on Schedule 5.

Schedule 2

- 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 on Schedule 2, such as it is regulated in other ways or only used in very specific circumstances by highly trained individuals
- A licence or certificate is not required to use pesticides listed on Schedule 2.

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 and PMP holders 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 creating the course and plan to have it available before the new requirements come into force.
- Assistant applicators must refresh their training annually.
- Licensees, PMP holders and certified applicators acting as supervisors are responsible for confirming that assistant applicators have completed the course.
- Licensees and PMP holders 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.