

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 pesticides (except when using pesticides listed on Schedule 2 of the IPMR).
- A licence is still required to apply pesticides to landscaping on **public land** (except when using Schedule 2 pesticides).
- A licence is now also required to apply pesticides to landscapes on **private** residential and commercial land.
- However, residents do not need a licence and may apply Domestic class pesticides to landscaped areas on their own property if they hold a Residential Applicator Certificate.
- A licence or certificate is generally not required for residents to use pesticides on food gardens or hobby farms. However, a licence is required to offer this as a service.
- A licence or certificate is also not required for property owners using Domestic class glyphosate for specific applications. However, offering a service applying Domestic class glyphosate requires a licence.
- Please refer to “The Rules have Changed - A Guide for Golf Courses, Gardens & Cemeteries” and “The Rules have Changed - A Guide for Residents”, available at www.gov.bc.ca/PestManagement, for more information about these exemptions.

Key Points – After July 1, 2016:

- ➔ A licence is required to offer a service applying pesticides or to use pesticides in landscaped areas on public and private land (except for Schedule 2 pesticides).
- ➔ Notification of pesticide use must be provided to all residents.
- ➔ Signs must be posted before treating landscaped areas on commercial land the public may access.
- ➔ Everyone who applies pesticides must be certified or complete specific training.
- ➔ Some pesticides (Schedule 5) do not need a licence for use by homeowners but a licence is still required to offer a service applying these pesticides.
- ➔ You still need to comply with 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 before applying pesticides to landscapes on private commercial land that the public can be expected to access. This includes walkways and recreational areas, etc.
- Licensees must post signs to notify the public and these signs must meet the same requirements as signs posted when applying pesticides to landscaped areas on public land.

Notification - Residential Land

- Licensees now need to provide notification to all residents as well as to owners or managers of properties before applying pesticides to landscapes.
- This notification must contain information regarding the application, safety precautions to follow and contact information if they wish to learn more.
- For single residence properties, service licensees have flexibility in the form of the notice to best meet their business practices. It is anticipated that the notice could be provided as a “door knocker” or attached to an invoice, for example.
- The notification requirements licensees must follow for multi-residence properties (two or more living units) still remain in effect.

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, 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.

Schedule 5

- A new list of pesticides (Schedule 5) has been created to allow owners of private land to apply these pesticides without the need for a licence or certificate.
- A licence is required **to offer a service** applying pesticides listed on Schedule 5.

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 licensees 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.