

Introduction

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

The changes are intended to ensure that pesticides are used by people with knowledge and training and to promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the responsible use of pesticides.

After July 1, 2016:

Pesticide Use in Landscapes

- The use of pesticides in landscaped areas on **public** land still requires a licence and must be conducted by trained people.
- For most uses of pesticides in landscaped areas on **private** land, the Ministry now requires either a certificate (for residents) or a licence (for commercial properties and service providers).
- This includes pesticide use on lawns, flower beds and ornamental trees and plants on such properties as single family homes, golf courses, botanical gardens and cemeteries.
- Residents do not generally require a licence or certificate to use pesticides on their own private land for:
 - Food gardens and hobby farms;
 - Pesticide use inside structures or in outside areas to control structural pests (e.g., rodents, carpenter ants, wasps);
 - Forests that are not managed for timber production; and
 - Areas used for commercial agriculture.

Options for Residents

- Residents have choices when managing pests in private landscapes. They are able to:
 - Hire a licensed company to provide the service;
 - Apply a Domestic class pesticide if they first obtain a Residential Applicator Certificate (RAC); or
 - Use a pesticide listed on either Schedule 2 or 5.
- Residents do not require a RAC for certain uses of Domestic class glyphosate. These include treating: plants that are poisonous for people to touch (e.g., poison ivy, poison oak); invasive plants and noxious weeds listed in legislation; and weeds growing through cracks in hard surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.

Key Points – After July 1, 2016:

- ➔ The use of pesticides in landscaped areas on private land now requires a licence or certificate.
- ➔ Landscaped areas include lawns, flower beds and ornamental trees and plants.
- ➔ Residents can obtain a Residential Applicator Certificate (RAC) to use Domestic class pesticides on their property.
- ➔ Residents can obtain a RAC through a free online course and exam.
- ➔ Residents can apply pesticides listed on Schedules 2 and 5 without a RAC.
- ➔ Service companies and landlords are required to notify residents about landscape pesticide treatments.
- ➔ Stores are required to restrict customer access to most pesticides.
- ➔ Certified dispensers must discuss the proposed pesticide use with customers before purchase and confirm it is appropriate.
- ➔ The changes to the IPMR do not override any municipal bylaws regarding landscape pesticide use.
- ➔ The new requirements will not come into force until July 1, 2016.

The Residential Applicator Certificate

- To obtain a RAC, residents are required to complete a free online course and pass an exam.
- Upon passing the exam, residents are issued a ten-year certificate.
- The online course should take approximately two hours to complete and includes information on:
 - Health and safety;
 - Environmental protection; and
 - The use of IPM when managing landscape pests.

Schedule 5

- Schedule 5 is a new list of Domestic class pesticides that are considered safe for use by untrained people.
- Owners of private land can 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.

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.
- Neither a licence nor certificate is required to use pesticides listed on Schedule 2.

Notification

- There are new rules for notifying residents.
- Licensed service companies who apply pesticides on residential land are required to notify their clients and any tenants before pesticides are used on outdoor landscaped areas.
- A landlord with an RAC who plans to apply pesticides to outdoor landscaped areas must provide written notice to tenants.
- Notification must provide information on what pesticide will be used, when the application will occur and if there are any safety precautions to follow.

Municipal Bylaws

- The changes to the IPMR do not override municipal bylaws. If a municipality you are living in has restrictions on the landscape use of pesticides, they must be followed.
- Contact your local municipality to learn if there are bylaws regarding pesticide use in residential landscapes.

Buying Pesticides

- Licensed vendors are now required to display most pesticides in a way that restricts access by customers, for example, behind a counter or in a locked cabinet.
- This is to ensure that a certified dispenser (employed by the vendor) communicates with customers prior to the purchase of a pesticide.
- When interacting with customers, certified dispensers are required to:
 - Offer advice on pest management and the safe use of pesticides;
 - Inform purchasers that pesticides must be used only for purposes stated on the label and according to the directions;
 - Confirm that the intended use is appropriate according to the pesticide label;
 - Inform the customer that a provincial licence or certificate may be required to use the pesticide; and
 - Inform the customer that municipal bylaws may restrict the use of the pesticide.
- Customers should expect pesticide vendors to ask them how they plan to use a pesticide before a purchase is made. This is to confirm that the intended use is appropriate.
- Vendors are not required to know if there is a municipal bylaw restricting the intended use where customers live, nor do they need to know the details of any such bylaws. Customers are responsible for contacting their municipality and understanding what restrictions may be in place.
- The requirements listed above apply to Schedule 5 pesticides but do not apply to pesticides listed on Schedule 2.

Next Steps

- The Ministry understands that residents and vendors 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.