

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pesticide Regulation Section

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***Ensuring Proper Pesticide
Management Through Regulatory
and Educational Programs***

PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION

FUNCTION: The Pesticide Regulation Section is responsible for regulating the use, sale, storage and disposal of pesticides and for ensuring that pesticides are applied properly by competent applicators. To carry out this function, pesticide education, enforcement, regulatory and management programs are conducted through several subprograms in the Section.

CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING: The core of the program is the pesticide applicator certification and training program. Private applicators (farmers) who use restricted use pesticides on their own property to produce agricultural commodities, and commercial applicators who use general and restricted use pesticides as employees of commercial pest control firms and government agencies, are certified by the Section. Applicants are provided with training materials and are given closed book exams as part of the certification process. Applicants must participate in update training sessions approved by the Department to renew certificates.

LICENSING: Licenses and permits are issued to pesticide businesses or public agencies that apply general or restricted use pesticides and permits are issued to dealers who sell restricted use pesticides. Pest control consultants that identify pests and recommend pesticides or other pest control techniques are issued licenses.



ENFORCEMENT: The Section enforces both State and federal pesticide laws and regulations. Inspectors conduct routine inspections of licensed pest control businesses, permitted public agencies and pesticide dealers. Inspections include a check of pesticide application records,



safety and application equipment, and storage areas. Use observations are conducted to observe pesticide applications to field crops, lawns, and structures to ensure compliance with product label directions and State and federal regulations. Pesticide misuse, incidents and consumer complaints are investigated. In the event of a violation, the Department can suspend, revoke or deny a license or certificate, issue a notice of warning or assess a civil penalty.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION: The Section provides information to pesticide applicators, dealers, federal and state agencies and the general public on issues concerning pesticide use, management and regulation. Training materials, informational brochures, fact sheets and newsletters are developed for pesticide applicators and the public.



FEDERAL PROGRAMS: Under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Section carries out three federal regulatory programs: Ground Water Protection, Endangered Species Protection, and Farm Worker Protection.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Special programs relating to pesticide management are conducted when grant funds are available. These programs include ground water monitoring, unusable pesticide disposal, empty pesticide container collection and recycling, and integrated pest management (IPM) programs.



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMS: The Section is actively involved in developing and implementing the pesticide commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Toxics Reduction and Prevention Strategy.