

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Concerning the integrated Pest Management Programs in Maryland Public Schools and on School Grounds.

The Law and Regulations

How can I obtain a copy of the law or regulations?

The Integrated Pest Management Systems in Schools and School Grounds act can be viewed at the following web site address:

http://mlis.state.md.us/cgi-win/web_statutes.exe?gag&5-208.1

The Regulations Pertaining to Integrated Pest Management and Notification of Pesticide Use in a Public School Building or on School Grounds Code of Maryland Annotated Regulations (COMAR) 15.05.02 can be found at the following website address:

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/15_Chapters.htm#Subtitle05

Integrated Pest Management in School Buildings and on School Grounds

What is Integrated Pest Management?

By definition in Regulations Integrated Pest Management means a managed pest control program in which methods are integrated and used to keep pests from causing economic, health-related, or aesthetic injury through the utilization of site or pest inspections, pest population monitoring, evaluating the need for control, and the use of one or more pest control methods, including sanitation, structural repair, nonchemical methods, **and, when nontoxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted**, pesticides in order to minimize the use of pesticides and minimized the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications.

Antimicrobial Pesticides

Are antimicrobial products used in a school for cleaning purposes subject to the School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Notification Regulations?

No. Any antimicrobial agents, such as disinfectants, sanitizers or deodorizers, used in a school building for cleaning purposes, by definition are exempt from the regulatory requirements of the School IPM and Pesticide Notification regulations.

Bait Stations (Insect, Rodent, and Termite)

If bait stations are placed inside of a school building is the school required to provide 24 hour advance notification to parents/guardians and school staff?

No. Bait stations are not included in the definition of Pesticide[®]. However, schools must provide An-School Notification[®] to students and staff before a bait station is applied by putting a sign or notice on the door of the room or primary entrance to the area in which the bait station is placed. The notice or sign must remain until the bait station is removed. The sign must include the following information:

1. The statement A Caution ---- Pesticide Application[®] ;
2. The common name of the pesticide applied;
3. The date the bait station was placed in the room or area; and
4. The contact person from whom additional information, including information on potential adverse effects can be obtained.

Complaints

What should I do if I suspect a school or school system is not complying with the regulations pertaining to IPM and Notification of pesticide use in a school building or on school grounds?

The first step is to contact your school system's designated Contact Person. This individual has been designated by the school board to handle inquiries about the school systems IPM and Notification program and procedures. If after contacting the Contact Person, there is evidence to believe the school or school system is violating regulations, you should contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation Section to report the suspected violation. (410) 841-5710 Voice, (410) 841-2765 Fax.

Contact Person

Who can a parent, guardian or staff person get information from about the school IPM program and pest control practices?

Each school system designates a Contact Person who keeps information on the IPM program, pest control practices and pesticide application. The Contact Person is listed in the notice provided at the beginning of the school year.

EMERGENCY PEST APPLICATIONS

If an emergency pest control application is needed to mitigate or eliminate a pest which threatens the health or safety of a student or staff member, must the school notify parents/guardians, students, and school staff prior to the emergency application?

A pesticide may be applied in a school building or on school grounds without prior notification only if an emergency pest situation exists. However, following an emergency application, the school must notify the parents/guardians and school staff members within 24 hours after an emergency pesticide application, or on the next school day.

Fertilizers

Is the application of fertilizers to school grounds covered by the Regulations?

No. Fertilizers are not covered by the Regulations. However, if the fertilizer contains an herbicide (e.g., Weed and Feed) or insecticide it is a pesticide product and governed by this Regulation.

Information for Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member

How are parents, guardians and staff made aware of their school systems IPM Program?

At the beginning of each school year, each school must include a notice of the school's IPM system in the school calendar or other universal notification. The notice must include the following:

1. A statement that explains the school's IPM system;
2. A list of the common name of any pesticide or bait station that may be used in a school building or on school grounds;
3. The name, address, and telephone number of the school contact person;
4. A statement that the contact person maintains the product label and material safety data sheet of each pesticide or bait station used in a school building or on school grounds.
5. A statement that the:
 - (a) Product label or material safety data sheet is available for review by a parent, guardian, staff member, or student attending the school, and
 - (b) Contact person is available for information or comment; and
6. Instructions for including a parent, guardian, or staff member on a pesticide notification list (for Middle or High Schools).

After the beginning of the school year, a school shall provide the information above required information to a:

1. Parent or guardian of a newly enrolled student; and
2. Newly employed staff member.

Insect and Rodent Monitoring Stations

Does the use of Sticky Traps (Glue Boards), Snap Traps, and Pheromone Traps in school buildings or on school grounds require notification or posting?

No.

Notification

What information must the school provide to parents, guardians and staff members prior to a planned pesticide application or following an emergency pesticide application?

The following information must be provided:

1. Common name of the pesticide applied;
2. Location of the application;
3. Date and time of the application;
4. The following statement (The Office of Pesticide Programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated: "Where possible, persons who potentially are more sensitive, such as pregnant women and infants (less than 2 years old), should avoid any unnecessary pesticide exposure");
5. A brief description, approved by the Department, of potential adverse effects, based upon the material safety data sheet of the pesticide applied; and
6. Reason for the emergency application, if applicable.

Will the school automatically notify parents, guardians and staff of a pesticide application? If so how?

For pesticide applications made to an elementary school buildings or grounds, the school is required to provide notify parents, guardians and staff by a written notice sent home with each student or provided to each staff member, at least 24 hours prior to a pesticide application or within 24 hours after or on the next school day for emergency applications.

For pesticide applications made to middle school or high school buildings or on school grounds, the school is required to develop a list of parents, guardians and staff members who wish to receive notification of pesticide applications. The school may provide notification by a written notice sent home with the student or provided to the staff member, a telephone call, direct contact, or a written notice mailed at least 3 days before the application. A county board of education may elect to provide information to each parent, guardian and staff member (universal notification) for middle school and high schools.

What if notification has been provided for a pesticide application to be made to school grounds and the pesticide can not be applied due to unfavorable weather conditions?

The notification for a planned date and time of application for school grounds can specify that weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances may cause the actual date of application to be postponed to a later date or dates. If the actual date of application is more than 14 days later than the planned date provided in the notice, notice of the application required under this regulation shall be reissued.

If someone other than the school's staff (permitted public agency or licensed pesticide business) is responsible for pest control in school buildings or on school grounds, who is responsible for making notification if a pesticide application becomes necessary?

The school must make the notification. A licensee, permittee, or certificate holder may not apply a pesticide in a school building or on school grounds until the notification is provided in accordance with the regulations.

Pesticide Applications

Who can apply pesticides on school property?

Only a certified applicator or a registered employee, working under the supervision of a certified applicator, may apply a pesticide in a school building or on school grounds.