



The Environmental Health Unit of Queensland Health produces this newsletter. The newsletter is designed to inform licensed pest management technicians (PMT) about regulatory matters, which impact on their industry.

The main objective of the Pest Management Act 2001 (the Act) and Pest Management Regulation 2003 is to protect the public from health risks associated with pest management activities which includes pest control activities and fumigation activities.

Licensing issues

1. Licence renewals

Licence renewal applications are sent to licensees at their last recorded address at least 60 days before the expiry date.

The Act does not permit Queensland Health to renew a licence where the renewal application has been received by Queensland Health after the expiry date. The licence renewal application form must be returned with the correct renewal fee.

Licence renewal application forms **must** be submitted to the address on the renewal application only. Complications can occur if application forms are submitted to another Queensland Health address or office.

2. 20th September 2005 DEADLINE

PMT's who have a licence with the statement '**not including timber pests after the 20 September 2005**' cannot legally perform timber pest work after this date.

This deadline also applies to licensed **fumigators who have not upgraded their fumigation licence**. They cannot legally perform fumigation work after this date.

It also applies to **restricted licence holders pest control work** (up to eight (8) pesticides listed on their licence). They cannot legally perform **any** pest control work after this date.

To continue legally performing pest management activities, these PMT's must obtain the required competencies and have their licence **updated before** the 20 September 2005. This can be done by submitting an application to Queensland Health to vary their licence accompanied by the required fee.

3. Unlicensed pest management activity

A person was recently fined \$21,000 in the Toowoomba Magistrates Court for carrying out pest management activities without a licence and giving false information to a Queensland Health environmental health officer investigating their pest management activities.

A pest management company was successfully prosecuted for requiring employees to conduct pest management activities whilst neither licensed nor under the supervision of a licensed person. The company was fined \$12, 500 plus costs.

Reports of unlicensed pest management work (general pest control, timber pest control work, fumigation) can be made to a Queensland Health public health unit. They can assist with other pest management enquiries also.

PHU offices

Brisbane North Ph 3250 8509	Mt Isa Ph 4744 4846
Brisbane South Ph 3000 9148	Redcliffe Ph 3897 6481
Bundaberg Ph 4150 2780	Rockhampton Ph 4920 6989
Cairns Ph 4050 3600	Sunshine Coast Ph 5409 6600
Charleville Ph 4656 8100	Thursday Island Ph 4069 0400
Gold Coast Ph 5509 7222	Toowoomba Ph 4631 9888
Hervey Bay Ph 4197 7277	Townsville Ph 4750 4000
Longreach Ph 4658 0859	West Moreton Ph 3810 1500
Mackay Ph 4968 6611	

Vehicle signage requirements

The vehicle is to be clearly identifiable as a pest management vehicle by appropriate signage in English. The signage must be easily read on the outside of the vehicle, for example, "Urban Pest Management Services, Telephone (07) 7777 9999". The signage will be appropriate as long as:

- it contains the technician's name or business name
- contains the business name of the technician's employer
- contains the contact telephone number of the technician or employer; and if the name on the vehicle is used for pest management activities, the words "Pest management vehicle" or other words that clearly indicate the vehicle is used for pest management activities
- can be easily read by a member of the public or an inspector while walking or driving past the vehicle.

Obtaining pesticide samples for analysis

An inspector is permitted under the Act to obtain samples for analysis to determine whether the label instructions for mixing concentrations and other requirements on the label are being met.

A pest management technician could lose their licence if it is shown that the pesticide is not used in accordance with the label instructions eg mixture concentration.

Also, a pest management could lose their licence if it is shown that the pesticide they are using is an unregistered agricultural chemical product.

Contact details and finding information

Enquiries concerning this newsletter can be made to the Environmental Health Unit on (07) 3234 0938.

This document will become available, and other information on pest management, is available on the Pest Management Subject Directory for Industry on the Queensland health website at:
<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisonspests.asp>

Informing occupiers or others about pest management work performed

A pest management technician carrying out a pest management activity at a premises must provide written pest control advice to a person (for example, a householder, an occupier, a resident or a tenant, or a letting agent, if they requested the activity) before or just after the activity is carried out. The notice must be left with that person or left in a conspicuous place, or if the place is unoccupied, posted to the person. The notice must contain the following information:

- the technician's name and licence number
- the name and business name of the person employing the technician (if applicable)
- the name of each pesticide as it is marketed and sold
- the active constituent of the pesticide
- where the pesticide is used in the premises
- the precautions that should be taken for the pest control activity, eg. removing pets, washing crockery etc.

Queensland Health Pest Management Legislation and the Building Services Authority (BSA)

There is some misunderstanding about this area. The Pest Management Act 2001 is not connected nor does it refer in any way to the BSA licensing system. Disciplinary action taken by the BSA is taken into consideration for new applicants and existing licensees under section 14 of the Act. The BSA requires that an applicant for a termite management licence – (chemical) must produce a current Queensland Health pest management technician licence with the timber pest endorsement. This practice is solely a BSA one and is for their purposes.

Any dealings you may have with the BSA is entirely separate to Queensland Health and any documents (eg change of address, supply of certificates) you provide to the BSA **is not** passed on to Queensland Health. Confidentiality and Freedom of Information legislation applies.

Fumigation

Unit 11 PRMPM11B – Conduct Fumigation is currently being offered by a number of Registered Training Organisations (RTO's) in Queensland. Persons without appropriate previous fumigation experience may complete a training program to achieve competency. Others with significant experience in fumigation may be eligible for recognition under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. To obtain more information contact a RTO offering this unit www.ntis.gov.au.