



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Division of Consumer Protection

Office of Pesticide Services

P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

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www.vdacs.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Lohr
Commissioner

July 1, 2010

Dr. Patricia Wright
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Virginia Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120

Dear Dr. Wright,

The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Office of Pesticide Services, would like to offer its assistance to the Department of Education and Virginia's public schools to ensure that all pesticide applications in schools meet the minimum requirements as provided by state law.

Under Virginia law (Title 3.2 Chapter 39, Code of Virginia) public school employees making pesticide applications to school property must be certified as government registered technicians or commercial applicators through our Office, and any contractors making pesticide applications on school property must be both certified (as registered technicians or commercial applicators for hire) and licensed as a pesticide business in Virginia. This includes many types of products and applications such as:

- Insecticide or rodenticide treatments, including bait applications, in and around school facilities for pest control;
- Herbicide (weed killer) treatments to sidewalks, parking lots, and fence lines;
- Herbicide applications to athletic fields, to include "weed and feed" products;
- Pesticide treatments to maintain landscaping around schools; and
- Pesticide treatments to plants being grown and maintained in school greenhouses.

These certification requirements, in place since 1991, are intended to assure that any pesticide application in schools is made by a properly qualified individual for the safety of students, staff and the general public. The requirements apply even if the pesticide product used can be purchased "over the counter" at grocery stores or home centers by homeowners and other

uncertified people. Exempt from the certification requirements are persons who provide janitorial or cleaning services using "nonrestricted use" (over-the-counter) sanitizers, disinfectants, and germicides.

Information on the certification process, responsibilities of pesticide applicators, and all necessary forms can be found on the website www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides . To determine if pest control contractors are certified and licensed by the Office of Pesticide Services please contact the Certification, Licensing, Registration & Training Section at (804) 786-3798.

For questions about the certification requirements or how the employee training, testing and certification process may be carried out, please contact Vickie Rengers, Program Coordinator for Certification & Training (804) 786-8934, vickie.rengers@vdacs.virginia.gov.

Finally, if any public school would like to have a field visit to discuss their specific pesticide uses and possible certification needs, please contact Doug Edwards, Supervisor, Enforcement & Field Operations, (804) 786-8943, douglas.edwards@vdacs.virginia.gov.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the safe and legal use of pest control products in Virginia's public schools.

Sincerely,



Liza J. Fleeson
Program Manager

cc: Matthew J. Lohr, Commissioner
Sandra J. Adams, Deputy Commissioner
William C. Boshier, Jr., Chairman, Pesticide Control Board
Andres Alvarez, Director, Division of Consumer Protection
Douglas Edwards, Supervisor, Enforcement & Field Operations
Vickie Rengers, Program Coordinator, Certification & Training