

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Pesticide Services**

Pesticide Applications on Public School Property

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 the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Pesticide Services. In addition, 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 a pest control contractor is 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 in your school district, please contact Vickie Rengers, Program Coordinator for Certification & Training (804) 786-8934, vickie.rengers@vdacs.virginia.gov.

Finally, public schools who would like to have a field visit to discuss specific pesticide uses and possible certification needs should contact Doug Edwards, Enforcement Supervisor, (804) 786-8943, douglas.edwards@vdacs.virginia.gov.