

Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation

Pesticide Application Notification, Applicator Records Maintenance, and Direct Supervision



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Bulletin 22

A Guide for All Pesticide Applicators

This Bulletin will address the Department of Pesticide Regulation's policies regarding pesticide application notification, applicator records maintenance, and direct supervision. All of these subjects are covered in the Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the South Carolina Pesticide Control Act ("Rules and Regs"), Section 27-1083. If you do not have a copy, you may visit our website at <http://dpr.clemson.edu> and download a copy from our home page.

Pesticide Application Notification

If your customer requests to know what you have applied in their house or on their property, you must provide the following information:

Provide a completed, fully legible, written statement that contains, at the minimum:

- ▶ The name of your company and the address;
- ▶ The pest or pests that you are controlling;
- ▶ The common chemical name of the active ingredient(s) of the pesticide you applied—NOT the brand name; **and**
- ▶ The name of the responsible licensed applicator.

Please note that there is not a "posting requirement" for pesticide applications. The above regulation simply means that you must notify your customer, at their request, of what you have applied in or around their home, lawn, or other structure.

Recordkeeping

The South Carolina Pesticide Control Act requires licensed commercial and non-commercial applicators (individuals or firms) to maintain records of all applications of any pesticides, regardless as to whether they are restricted or general use pesticides.

The records must include the quantity of each pesticide used, received, or purchased. It must list the common chemical name of the ingredient(s)—**not** the brand name. For example, fipronil, cypermethrin, and bifenthrin are examples of common chemical names. Over-n-Out®, Demon®, and Talstar® are brand names.

The records must also list the pest or purpose for which it was applied and the date and place of application. If you made an application in an industrial establishment (e.g., restaurant, fast food establishment, grocery store, department store, etc.), it is not necessary to list the pests that you treated for general household insect control (such as roaches, ants, etc.). In this case, your records should indicate "household pests" or "general insect control."

Although it is not specifically stated in the Rules and Regs, it is better to keep these records where you can access them quickly and easily if you need them.

You must keep these records as detailed below:

For pre-construction termite control treatments or “pretreats,” including the installation of baiting systems, records of all termiticide applications (including spot applications, booster treatments, and the replacement of monitoring stations with active ingredients) must be kept for five (5) years or as long as a continuing warranty or contract exists, whichever is longer.

For post-construction termite control treatments, records must be kept for two (2) years or as long as a continuing warranty or contract exists, whichever is longer.

For all other pesticide treatments other than termite treatments, you must keep records for a period of two (2) years from the date of application.

Remember that the Department of Pesticide Regulation may request records of all pesticides used by any applicator. This includes application records, as well as any records of (or related to) any pesticides that have been purchased or otherwise received by an applicator. The expense of copying or duplicating these records will be paid by our Department.

Direct Supervision

The level of direct supervision that is required for certain pest control activities varies according to the nature of the application.

Unless the label of the product being applied requires a licensed applicator to be on site, licensed commercial and non-commercial applicators whose business location is not in South Carolina must have a licensed applicator within 30 minutes by ordinary ground transportation of the application site. The licensed applicator must be immediately available by telephone or radio.

If the business is located in South Carolina, the following guidelines for direct supervision apply:

- ▶ If fumigants are being applied, an applicator who is licensed in SC Category 7B, SC Category 1C, or other category as determined by the Department must be physically present on the site and supervising the application at all times when the pesticide is being applied.
- ▶ If any restricted-use pesticides (as determined by the EPA or the Department) are being used, regardless of the signal word, an applicator who is licensed in the proper SC category must be within 30 miles by ordinary ground transportation from the application site and immediately available by telephone or radio.
- ▶ For categories of use in which licensing is mandatory (SC Categories 3, 5, 7A, 7B, and 8), the use of any pesticide that has the signal word “danger” or “warning” in its label requires that the licensed applicator be within sixty miles driving distance from the application site and immediately available by telephone or radio.
- ▶ For categories of use in which licensing is mandatory (SC Categories 3, 5, 7A, 7B, and 8), the use of any pesticides that has the signal word “caution” in its label requires that the licensed applicator be within one-hundred miles driving distance from the application site and immediately available by telephone or radio.

A Word about Signal Words

Signal words on a pesticide label indicate the level of hazard and the potential for human injury if you are exposed to it. **DANGER** is used for the most toxic pesticides. A few drops to a teaspoon can kill a person who weighs 160 pounds. **WARNING** is used for pesticides that are in the mid-range of hazardous. A teaspoon to a tablespoon can kill a person who weighs 160 pounds. The word **CAUTION** is used for pesticides that are slightly toxic. It would take one tablespoon to a pint to kill a person who weighs 160 pounds. Always remember that **THE LABEL IS THE LAW** in South Carolina!