



Department of Pesticide Regulation's

AGRICULTURAL PEST CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, July 15, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: 1001 I Street
Training Rooms East/West, 1st floor
Sacramento, California 95812

Members Present: (7), Mary Louise Flint-UCIPM, Linda LaVanne- Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, Matt Scally- Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business, Wayne Steele-Registrants, Ronald Berg- Pest Control Dealers, Ken Nichols- Pest Control Businesses, Richard Stoltz- Pest Control Aircraft Pilots,

Department Staff: (6) David Duncan- Chair of Committee (Ch), Margie Read, Mac Takeda, Rayven Jenkins, Cynthia Ray, and Bob Elliot.

Guests: (4) Joyce Basan-CAPCA, Dave Lawson-Lawson & Associate, Michael McKinney, and Judy Letterman - PAPA.

Members Absent: (5) Jean La Duc- General Public, Tim Stone - Commercial applicators, Kenneth Oneto- FAC section 56115 Producers, Scott Hudson- County Agricultural Commissioner Association, and Jim Farrar-California State University System

Member Vacancies: Board of Governors of the California Community College system

AGENDA

9:30-9:35 Introduction of members and others in attendance and review of agenda

David Duncan, DPR

Change of agenda item in Licensing Process Improvements - 'Maintenance Gardner Study Guides' to 'Maintenance Gardener Rule making' and move to the Rule making agenda item.

9:35-9:40 Review and approval of 8 April 2009 meeting minutes

Approved by the committee

9:40-9:50 DPR Licensing updates – license renewals time line, furlough impact, testing for microbial pest control subcategory, fumigation subcategory

Mac Takeda, DPR

1. License renewals expedited time line – due to furlough impact

- DPR is preparing materials to mail out Renewals by mid-August, which is approximately one month early.
- Applicants are being noticed that they must have Renewal applications postmarked and mailed by November 23 in order to receive their license by January 1, 2010
- A new one-page notice has been prepared (meeting handout) and will be included with the renewal documents to indicate the importance of early renewal.

2. License List Server

Interested parties with e-mail capability may sign up for a free, automatic delivery of news releases, regulatory notices, program updates, and other postings to the DPR Web site. Subscribers will receive e-mail notices regarding topics related to continuing education and licensing. Often the message will contain a link to the DPR site where you can download the relevant documents at your convenience. A notice regarding the List Server will be added to the renewal packets.

3. Furlough impact

Due to the implementation of furlough days, the Department necessarily canceled the Sacramento exams that were to be held on Friday, July 24th. The Friday exams were rescheduled to Monday, 27 July, and 90

individuals were contacted by telephone, to notify them of the date change. The exams scheduled for July 21-23 were not affected.

Additional impacts of the furlough days include the following:

- The effective loss of 1.5 person years, which will impact the ability to provide services
- Office closures on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Friday of each month, which will last until June 2010

2. Microbial pest control subcategory

The last special exam for subcategory P (SO₂) will be held in Santa Rosa on August 11 from 11 am – 1 pm. Due to the low turn out of applications received, special exams for this subcategory alone will no longer take place.

3. Fumigation subcategory

Seventy-six individuals have now passed the exam for subcategory M – Field Fumigation. There is some circumstantial evidence that the Field Fumigation exam has been compromised. DPR is in the process of re-writing the exam, and will develop additional strategies to ensure exam security.

4. Completed CE hours

According to information provided by CECPM, many of the 10,991 M through Z individual license holders who are due for renewal at the end of this year have not yet completed their CE requirement. This predicts last minute rushes by these individuals to obtain CE hours before their license expires. List of individual license types that have completed the required CE hrs to date:

- PCA 50%
- QAL 33%
- QCs 39%
- Pilots 50%

DPR will be using the tools it has available to inform of the need to complete CE and submit renewal applications early in order to ensure that licenses will be renewed by January 1, 2010. Organizations that provide CE could convey the information to obtain CE hrs as soon as possible.

Judy Letterman said that PAPA, CAPCA, and CAAA are sending out renewal reminders. Now that the 'suggested completion date' to mail the renewal documents has been pushed forward to November 23, 2009, the applicants may be more aware of how little time they have to complete the CE for their licenses. Judy said that the upcoming PAPA CE classes are already filling up with licensees who need the CE hrs for the renewal of their license this year.

PAPA, CAPCA, and CAAA were asked to remind their association members and others to send DPR change of address notifications to DPR so they can receive their renewal notices. They must make address change requests with DPR in writing, as the US Postal Service does not forward any mail to DPR.

9:50-10:15 Licensing Process Improvements

Mac Takeda and Margie Read, DPR

- On-Line Renewals

DPR maintains the goal of developing online license renewals for individuals and businesses before the 2010 renewal season. It is important to note that any fiscal cutbacks that may be implemented in 2009 could impede the process. However, development of this online tool remains a priority with DPR.

- Flat Card vs. embossed cards

A draft spreadsheet was distributed that provided comparisons between the embossed cards that are currently used by licensees and the flat cards which are being evaluated for future use. Some considerations include cost, practicality and versatility, as well as the list below:

- Printing flat cards is faster and less expensive than printing embossed cards. Embossed card printers cost apx. \$20,000 compared to apx. \$6,000 for the flat card printer with laminator.
- Embossed cards are pre-printed with the DPR logo and other information. Information specific to licensee is imprinted later. When this information is printed a little off-center, the cards may be

unusable. Flat cards can be printed with licensee information and DPR logo together, avoiding this problem currently encountered with embossed cards.

- The flat card may include an advanced bar code that can be reproduced by the County Agricultural Commissioners by copier or by fax, if they so chose. Another option would be the purchase of a digital scanner, although this would not be mandatory.

DPR will continue to explore the pros and cons of these cards, and will share the concepts with stakeholders. If changes do take place, the attempt will be to do so before the renewal season in 2010.

- Maintenance Gardener Subcategory

New regulation is being developed for subcategory Q, Maintenance Gardener. This subcategory is distinguished from the Landscape Maintenance (subcategory A) in that it limits the certificate holders to general use pesticides. Restricted use pesticides will not be allowed under subcategory Q. Exams for the Maintenance Gardener subcategory are expected to begin in the fall, with the workshops to be held in San Luis Obispo. The draft regulation for the new maintenance gardener subcategory has been developed, and it is anticipated that it will be noticed sometime in the fall of 2009. The Maintenance Gardener study guide has been completed in English, and the Spanish translation is near completion. Exams will be developed both in English and in Spanish before the fall of 2009.

- Microbial Study Guide

USEPA has identified a sulfur dioxide product used to sanitize wine barrels and corks as a restricted use pesticide. Because this, DPR has adopted a process by policy to license and certify applicators for use of sulfur dioxide in these applications. DPR has also developed draft regulation for a microbial pest control, subcategory P, which should be noticed sometime in the fall of 2009. Currently, exams are being given only for SO₂ certification.

The microbial pest control study material development is currently under contract and should be available by the end of this year. Pat O'Conner Mayer has been selected to prepare the Microbial study guide, which in addition to sanitation of wine barrels and corks, will deal with other applications such as sanitation of cooling towers, potable water lines, and evaporative condensers. There are a number of states that have a subcategory that covers this area. Other agencies have study material that may offer guidance with the new study material that we produce.

10:50-11:00 (BREAK TBA)

11:00-11:30 Program Performance Indicators – Concepts & Ideas

Margie Read, DPR

The purpose of this topic was to introduce to the APCAC, the concepts behind performance indicators and how they could be used to enhance the Licensing and Certification activities at DPR. Performance indicators would provide tools to be used to know if the Department is achieving the goals that are identified. Performance indicators are seen as numerical measures of achievement that are easy to collect and use and they can help to design a program, or modify an existing program, that may not be achieving the the desired results. Indicators would help us answer questions, such as 'Is our Continuing Education Program effective at ensuring that our licensees and certificate holders remain competent and knowledgeable to perform their duties related to pesticides and pest management?' 'How can we verify that this is the case?'

There are other aspects, besides Continuing Education (CE), of the DPR Licensing and Certification program that could benefit from a discussion of performance indicators and program re-design. However, following discussion the APCAC group expressed most interest in CE and most particularly in the design of requirements for on-line classes. Some questions regarding on-line courses were identified as follows:

- How do you judge how long it takes to complete an on-line class?
- How can you ensure that the person taking the on-line course is actually the same as the one named?
- Should there be an exam following each on-line course to verify that some information was learned?
- What should be the requirements for an 'approvable' on-line course pertinent to licensing?

Several individuals at the APCAC meeting expressed an interest in developing program performance indicators, and in particular those that can be used for on-line CE. These individuals will be contacted in the near future,

and a Performance Indicator subcommittee will be formed. The first meeting will identify the scope of topics that the subcommittee will consider for recommendations.

11:30-11:50 Pest Management Alliance Grants Awarded for 2009

Bob Elliott, DPR

The Alliance Grant Program is designed to increase implementation of reduced-risk pest management strategies. Alliance projects demonstrate effective integrate pest management (IPM) practices, promote IPM outreach, and support IPM implementation and adoption. Existing projects are focused in the following areas:

- Grapes
- Almonds
- Canning peaches
- Delta water quality
- Urban ants
- Urban child care

The new PMA grant projects will focus on IPM in Landscape Maintenance, Urban Housing and Nursery Plant production. Projects include

- IPM continuing education for Maintenance Gardeners (MGs)

As briefly discussed earlier in the meeting, the Maintenance Gardener Project is an IPM education and outreach program that delivers conventional IPM training. There will be peer trainers at three seasonal workshops offered to MGs and retail store employees. The training will meet DPR s accredited Continued Education guidelines, and provide MGs with information to improve pest management decisions. The MGs will benefit from a safer work environment and the ability to market their IPM services.

- Healthy Homes Alliance

Healthy Homes Alliance is based on IPM in public housing to address the overuse and misuse of pesticides in low-income private housing. The team objectives include contracts with multi-unit housing, and shared responsibility for pest prevention, sanitation and building maintenance. The focus will be on IPM and the training will include home visits and pest assessment.

- Demonstration and implementation of IPM in the production of bedding and container plants

The goal of this three-year project is to reduce by 2012 overall pesticide use in the production of bedding and container color plants by 30 percent and organophosphate, carbamate and pyrethroid use to 15 percent of total insecticide applications. The project will form a collaborative, interdisciplinary team of experts to develop IPM strategies to manage pests with less-toxic pesticides and fewer applications.

11:50-12:10 PowerPoint training modules

Mac Takeda and David Duncan, DPR

DPR plans to develop PowerPoint training modules to provide examples in the subject area of common and frequent violations. Specific issues may be addressed to re-enforce the importance of improving compliance with the Laws and Regulations. DPR would utilize any available resources to assist the development of these training modules, and it is hoped the County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) and training sponsors would avail themselves of this teaching tool.

A template could be developed to facilitate the sponsors by allowing them to combine the module information with information they wish to present on the subject matter. Mac has been considering this use of training modules as an important tool to disseminate information regarding noncompliance to the pest control applicators and businesses. Plans are to provide information on the DPR website that hopefully provides the reader with important information that 'grabs attention', tells a story, clarifies information, and gives a clearer explanation of what the PowerPoint training modules will provide to them.

12:10-12:25 UC IPM update

Joyce Strand, Mary Lou Flint, UCIPM

- The Maintenance Gardener study guide for subcategory Q is now being translated into Spanish by DPR. The English version of the publication is now available through UCIPM publications.

- UC IPM is putting together a workbook to prepare applicants for the wood preservation category.
- The next study guide focus will be forest and right of way categories.
- Candidates are being recruited for the UC Senior Writer position, previously held by Susan Cohen.

12:25-12:30 Next agenda and meeting date
Committee

November 4, 2009 - Wednesday

Time: 9:30 am - 12:30pm

Place: 1001 I street
Training room 1 East and West (First Floor)
Sacramento, California

Public comment on any agenda item is welcome.

Questions about this agenda should be directed to David Duncan at (916) 445-3870 or dduncan@cdpr.ca.gov