



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



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Director

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October 9, 2017

PPD 17-02

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: PESTICIDE REGULATORY GUIDANCE ON CONTROL OF HEPATITIS A WITH SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE, APPLICATOR LICENSING, AND BUSINESS LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

## Background

The current outbreak of hepatitis A has resulted in some local public health agencies declaring a Public Health Emergency.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious virus that causes liver infections and can result in serious illness. Because the virus is transmitted via the “fecal-oral” route, contamination of food, water or the general environment can play an important role in spread of the disease. General information about this disease can be found at

<<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/pdfs/hepgeneralfactsheet.pdf>>

To fight the spread of hepatitis A, various public health guidance documents recommends the use of sodium hypochlorite at a dilution rate of 5000 ppm to reduce the risk of the virus from some environmental surfaces. Recommendations include both porous and non-porous use sites. Local environmental health and public health agencies have expressed an urgent need for sodium hypochlorite products that can be used at this dilution and for these sites in order to help control the current hepatitis A outbreak. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is coordinating with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local health agencies in order to facilitate the needed disinfection measures. For more information, see

<<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/EHHepAResource.pdf>>.



### **Guidance on Labeling**

Sodium Hypochlorite is a disinfectant and, therefore, falls within the definition of a pesticide. Pesticides must be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DPR, before they can be used in California. Although there are hundreds of sodium hypochlorite products registered by DPR, there are only a handful of products with labels containing directions for control of hepatitis A at the 5000 ppm dilution rate recommended by the public health agencies and for use sites broad enough to address the needs identified for the current situation.

DPR has identified the following list of sodium hypochlorite products that can be legally used as directed by the public health agencies. All the labeling precautions and instructions for use must be followed to comply with the law. This list is dynamic and can change as product labels may be amended and new products become registered. Please contact DPR for guidance on products you think may meet the requirements for use in these circumstances and we will determine if they can be added to this list.

AXIS ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 74249)

BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA- 43428)

BLEACH REGULAR ( 70271- 13-AA- 970)

BOARDWALK GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA- 84728)

DISINFECTANT BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA- 87442)

FIRST MARK GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA- 73835)

FROSTY ACRES RESTAURANT'S PRIDE ADVANTAGE GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH  
( 70271- 13-AA- 55020)

GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 14994)

GREAT VALUE CLEANING BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 41348)

ORIGINAL STRENGTH CLEANING BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 63546)

PRIME SOURCE GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA- 68613)

PROPOWER GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA- 75686)

PROPOWER ORIGINALS GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 75686)

PURE BRIGHT GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-AA )

SUNNY SELECT DISINFECTANT BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 75667)

SYSCO CLASSIC GERMICIDAL ULTRA BLEACH ( 70271- 13-ZA- 29055)

### **Guidance on Licensing**

In order to apply any pesticide for hire, including those associated with Public Health Emergencies such as hepatitis A, the company hired must possess a Pest Control Business (PCB) license and have a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) with Category K (health related) on staff to oversee the business operations. Both of these licenses are issued by DPR and information on how to obtain them can be found at <<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/qal.htm>>.

Local officials have asked DPR for assistance in meeting state licensing requirements for Pest Control Businesses and others to be able to make applications of pesticides for the emergency control of hepatitis A.

DPR is committed to working with local agencies to deal with this public health emergency situation. We remain committed to the safe and effective use of pesticides as well as the protection of human health and the environment, and therefore we have approved the following interim solution.

For the emergency health situation that currently exists where it is necessary to make immediate applications of registered pesticides to control the outbreak of hepatitis A, DPR will make the following exemption to these licensing requirements.

For the time period commencing October 6, 2017 and ending December 8, 2017, DPR will allow currently licensed and registered PCBs with a QAL in any Category, to apply, and supervise the application of pesticides registered for the control of hepatitis A, providing the QAL first attends a label compliance training administered by the local County Agricultural Commissioner or DPR. The QAL must also ensure that all applicators are properly trained and are in compliance with the label directions for all products to be applied for the control of hepatitis A. If a business is contracted to do this work, the business must have a pest control business license issued by

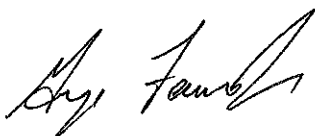
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DPR and register with the local County Agricultural Commissioner. Information on obtaining a pest control business license can be found at <<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/pcb.htm>>.

This exemption applies only to pest control work done under an official government program for the management of hepatitis A.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions or need further assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,



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Assistant Director  
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cc: Dr. Mark Starr, Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health  
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