



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR INSPECTIONS

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This factsheet describes commercial pesticide applicator office and field inspections.

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Commercial Pesticide Applicator Inspections

Inspections are conducted by the [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#) (CDA). There are two types of inspections: office and field inspections.

Office inspections cover the following:

- **Supervision** - The inspector notes how many Qualified Supervisors, Certified Operators, and Technicians are employed and discusses the responsibilities of the Qualified Supervisors.
- **Technicians** - The inspector questions the applicator on their technician training, proper documentation of trainings, supervision of technicians, and if WPS requirements are being met for agricultural pest control categories. If applicable, a WPS inspection will also be conducted (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Federal Worker Protection Standard](#)).
- **Office Records** - The inspector will ask to see your records to check for required components (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Commercial Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirements](#)). He/she will also look for other records including adjuvants used and weather conditions at the time of application.
- **Notification and Posting** - For agricultural pest control categories, the inspector will ask if prior notification and a written statement of pesticide(s) applied, amount applied, site, date of application, and any pertinent precautionary statements is given to each customer. For all other categories, the inspector will check to see if the customer is given a written statement as outlined above. For turf and ornamental categories, the inspector will also ask about posting signs and about the pesticide sensitive registry and notification requirements (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Turf and Ornamental Notification Requirements](#)).
- **Storage** - The inspector will ask to see your storage area(s) and see if they are adequately posted, locked, etc. (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Proper Pesticide Storage](#)).
- **Disposal** - The inspector will note how you dispose of



empty containers and will ask you to explain your spray tank clean-out procedures (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Safe Disposal of Pesticides and Containers in Colorado](#)).

- **Equipment** - The inspector will check your vehicles and equipment for proper identification and to see if it is properly maintained and free of leaks.

Field inspections cover the following:

- **Applicators** - Names, positions, and categories held of all applicators
- **Equipment** - The inspector will check your vehicles and equipment for proper identification and to see if it is properly maintained and free of leaks
- **Supervision** - The inspector asks about the responsibilities of the Qualified Supervisors and technician training
- **Safety Equipment** - The inspector will check to see if proper safety equipment (gloves, respirator, boots, etc.) are provided and are being used (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Making Your Protective Clothing Effective](#))
- **Observation of Actual Application** - The inspector will observe an application and will note the following:
 - site, crop, structure, or commodity treated
 - the target pest(s)
 - pesticide(s) used including EPA registration number and dilution rate. He/she may take samples of the tank mix or formulation for analysis, if necessary.
 - What, if any adjuvants were used?
 - Was the area to be treated and surrounding areas checked first for possible hazards?
 - Was the application on target?
 - What procedures would be followed if a spill or leak occurred?
 - If required, was proper and adequate notification left at the time of application? Did the posting signs meet requirements and were they posted at all conspicuous entry points?
 - If applicable, were weather conditions such as wind speed and direction noted?
 - If flaggers were used, was proper safety equipment worn if required by the label?
- **Remarks** - The inspector can note any other information not covered in previous sections.

Remember that the office and field inspection forms only cover the minimum requirements as regulated by the [Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act](#) and the [Rules and Regulations](#).

Upon completion of the inspection, the inspector will give you a copy of the inspection form. If you do not pass the inspection, you will be given time to correct the violation(s) and will then be reinspected. If violations are not corrected, enforcement can range from written reminders or reprimands to legal stipulations that may require additional training, revision of company policies, suspensions, civil penalties (fines), or in extreme cases, revocation of a license.

References and Resources

Pesticide Applicators' Act. Title 35, Article 10, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO.

Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Pesticide Applicators' Act. Title 35, Article 10. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO.

Smith, W. 2001. Personal communication. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Lakewood, CO.

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