



No. 14: Pesticide Record Keeping Requirements in Maryland

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BACKGROUND

Under the provisions of the 1990 Farm Bill and a change in the Maryland Pesticide Applicators Law, certified private and commercial applicators, public agencies, and pesticide consultants must maintain records of all pesticides they apply or recommend. Although there are some differences between the state and federal regulations, complying with the Maryland law satisfies requirements under both laws. This leaflet outlines the basic responsibilities that pertain to these laws and regulations.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE REGULATION

This is a record *keeping* requirement, not a record *reporting* requirement. Access to records will be granted only through the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), or a health professional. In such cases, confidentiality of users will be a priority.

However, some states have laws and regulations precluding confidentiality. Certified applicators (both private and commercial) must keep records on both general use and restricted use pesticides. Records may be kept electronically or on paper. The records must be maintained for a period of two years and must be made available upon request to MDA representatives.

No single format has been developed or required by the federal government because some states already have record keeping requirements and use various forms. An example of an acceptable commercial applicator record keeping format is provided at the end of this leaflet.

USEFULNESS OF RECORDS

Besides just meeting the requirements, keeping records is a wise precaution. You can compare results from different pesticides and figure out which pesticides

have provided the best control. Pest control practices and efficiency can be improved. Careful records from year to year serve as a guide for purchasing only the amount needed each season, reducing carryover. Documentation is also very important in the event of a lawsuit. Records can establish proof of proper use or help determine the cause if an error is made.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

The more information on record, the more useful the records will be to you. Carry a notebook with you in the field and write down the information as you go. It is easier to fill in a standard form rather than to try to memorize all of the necessary items. Private applicators can use the form at the end of this leaflet, or you may wish to develop your own. Commercial applicators can modify the form to include the additional information they are required to keep.

Private and commercial applicators, consultants, and public agencies must record the following information:

- EPA registration number
- common name of pesticide used
- date of application
- location and size of the area treated
- name of owner or tenant of treated property
- target pest
- crop, site, or commodity treated
- amount applied

- application rate
- concentration of the pesticide
- name and address of the certified applicator who made or supervised the treatment
- name of the actual applicator

Commercial applicators, consultants and public agencies must record the following information in addition to the above-listed items:

- type of equipment used
- time of day of the application
- weather conditions at the application site, including wind direction and estimated velocity

MDA is responsible for enforcement and monitoring. If you do not comply with the regulations, you are subject to fines and/or loss of certification.

RELATED REQUIREMENTS OF THE FARM BILL

In addition to record keeping requirements, the Bill calls for a comprehensive report on agricultural and nonagricultural pesticide usage, due on April 1st each year. This report is to be generated by selected sampling of large cropping areas and will be conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for agricultural uses and by EPA for non-agricultural uses. Both certified and noncertified pesticide users will be surveyed for these reports.

SOURCES

Brown, A.E. (Ed.) 1991. Maryland Pesticide Applicator Training Series Core Manual. Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Maryland System, College Park, MD.

Maryland Department of Agriculture. 2002. *Record Keeping for Commercial Applicators, Public Agency Applicators and Consultants, MDA Pesticide Information Sheet No. 15*. MDA Pesticide Regulation Section. <http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/records.pdf>.

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