

July 2, 2015

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**SUBJECT: STATUTE CHANGES AFFECTING STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL**

Dear Structural Pest Control Manager,

This letter is to notify you of changes to **Minnesota Statute** that regulate the Structural Pesticide Control (SPC) industry in Minnesota. The principal impacts are framed by new definitions of Structural Pest and Structural Pest Control. These new definitions take effect this summer and are copied below:

“Structural Pest” means an invertebrate pest or commensal rodent in, on, under, or near a structure such as a residential or commercial building.

“Structural Pest Control” means the control of any structural pest through the application of pesticides or through other means in or around a building or other structures, including trucks, boxcars, ships, aircraft, docks, and fumigation vaults.

**What are the anticipated changes?** Invertebrates and commensal rodents in or around structures will be the industry’s target pests; pests within the treatment domain of the SPC license. A person must be licensed to control Structural Pests through the application of pesticides or by other means. The license assures the public that persons are trained to understand the nature and habits of target pests living in close proximity to humans and they are qualified to use pesticides or other means to achieve effective control of control target pests.

Persons will not need a structural pest control license to treat nuisance birds, exclude bats, trap squirrels or control other wildlife in a structure. A Commercial Pesticide Applicator License with a Vertebrate Pest Control certification is required to apply pesticide to control voles, birds, bats, squirrels and other nuisance vertebrate pests for hire. Business activity related to the control of Structural Pests will no longer be regulated by MDA.

**What is the goal of these changes?** The change sets a reasonable regulatory standard for persons that do not use pesticides and it aligns certification categories. Current **Minnesota Statute** employs pesticide regulation to police persons that don’t use pesticides, and govern devices, procedures, and business activity associated with structural pest control.

July 2, 2015  
Page Two

The changes will focus training and certification on the necessary skills, knowledge and abilities needed by a SPC Applicator. The MDA will continue to enforce regulations that set high training, competency and license standards for persons that perform Structural Pest Control.

MDA encourages reports of pesticide misuse, including the commercial use of pesticides by unlicensed persons. These reports may be submitted electronically on our web page or by phone.

**Was industry involved?** Over the past several years MDA has raised concerns about the regulation of persons that do not use pesticide at Minnesota Pest Management Association (MPMA) board meetings and at the annual Pest Management Conference. Two years ago, the MDA organized discussions with interested stakeholders including representatives of MPMA, Minnesota Wildlife Control Operators, the University of Minnesota and Extension. Consensus was reached after two meetings on the framework for these definitions.

We are happy to address any additional questions about the changes that you may have. Please contact Alison Rossow 651-201-6146 or [Alison.Rossow@state.mn.us](mailto:Alison.Rossow@state.mn.us), or Gary Edwards 651-201-6472 or [Gary.Edwards@state.mn.us](mailto:Gary.Edwards@state.mn.us).

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Spitzmueller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Spitzmueller, Manager  
Facility, Licensing and Emergency Response Section  
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division