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Environmental protection and health in pest management

Updating: March 2011

- The *Pesticides Management Code*, in force since April 3, 2003, introduces stringent regulations controlling the storage, sale and use of pesticides. It promotes an approach aimed at better
- prevention of health risks posed by these products, particularly to children and the environment.

Pesticides are commonly used to combat insects and rodents. Nearly 90 percent of the pesticides used in the pest control sector are applied to eliminate pests. Since 1992, total pesticide sales in this sector account for approximately 35,000 kilograms of active ingredients per year. Commercial extermination products are characterized by their effectiveness in very small doses. Generally speaking, active ingredient concentrations are very low (0.005 to 0.5%), particularly in rodenticides.



Pesticides can pose a risk to human health, as well as contaminate water, air, soil and property. Thus, pesticide applications to eliminate harmful organisms both in and outdoors, notably by agri-food institutions and public or residential buildings are cause for concern. Therefore, it is important to reduce pesticide use and implement integrated pest management as the most appropriate combination of strategies for preventing, eliminating or controlling harmful organisms.

The effectiveness of integrated pest management depends essentially on information related to the location and evolution of pest populations, made available through monitoring methods such as visual observations, trap monitoring systems, etc. Data related to pest populations, ambient conditions and location background facilitate the exterminators' ability to diagnose a problem and choose the best intervention strategy. Adequate hygiene conditions applied both inside and outside buildings is a fundamental step towards minimizing food sources for harmful organisms.

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The *Pesticides Management Code* and you

These new regulations affect the storage, preparation and application of pesticides in the pest control sector. Permit and certificate holders targeted by the [Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides](#) must comply with the regulations of the Code. These include:

- holders of a Class C "Remunerated Work," Subclass C5 "Application of Class 1 to Class 4 Pesticides for Extermination" permit;
- holders of a Class D "Non-Remunerated Work," Subclass D5 "Application of Class 1 to Class 3 Pesticides for Extermination" permit;
- holders of a Class CD "Application of Pesticides," Subclass CD5 "Application for Extermination" certificate, working in sectors in which permits are required (C5 or D5).

[Pesticide classifications](#) are established according to the *Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides*. They differ from the federal classifications.

FEDERAL CLASSIFICATION	QUÉBEC CLASSIFICATION
Pesticides for restricted use	Classes 1 and 2
Pesticides for commercial, agricultural or industrial use	Class 3
Pesticides for domestic use	Classes 4 and 5



Storage regulations

- Class 1 to Class 4 pesticides must be stored in premises where the ambient conditions are not likely to alter the product or its container, and in such a manner that its contents are not released into the environment.
- It is prohibited to store Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 pesticides within a flood area that is mapped or identified in a development plan or a metropolitan land use planning and development plan or in a municipal zoning by-law.

*- Flood area having a flood recurrence interval of **0 to 20 years***

It is prohibited to store pesticides in this area.

However, this prohibition did not apply to existing storage sites for a period of two years, i.e., until April 3, 2005. Since that date, pesticides must be stored on such premises only if they are placed higher than the highest level reached by water in a 100-year interval flood, failing which the storage

site must be moved outside the flood area.

- Flood area having a flood recurrence interval of 20 to 100 years

It is prohibited to store pesticides in this area, except under the following conditions:

- the quantity of stored pesticides is less than 100 litres or 100 kilograms;
- the quantity of stored pesticides is equal to or greater than 100 litres or 100 kilograms and the storage time is less than 15 consecutive days;
- the pesticides are stored higher than the highest level reached by water in a 100-year interval flood.

This prohibition did not apply to existing storage sites for a period of two years, i.e., until April 3, 2005. Since that date, pesticides must be stored on such premises only if one of the above-mentioned conditions applies, failing which the storage site must be moved outside the flood area.

- Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 unprepared or undiluted pesticides must be stored in premises having a containment works. A containment works is a floor, platform or watertight basin built so as to contain and allow for the complete recovery of any pesticide leak or spillage.
- A person who stores unprepared or undiluted pesticides in quantities equal to or greater than 1,000 litres or 1,000 kilograms must immediately notify [Urgence-Environnement](#) in the event of pesticide fire, and specify at that time the nature of the stored pesticides and the approximate quantity stored on the premises.
- A person who stores Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 pesticides must have on the premises adequate equipment and material capable of stopping any leak or release of pesticides and, if required, of cleaning the premises. In the event of a leak or release of pesticides, the person must immediately take measures to stop the leak or release and clean the premises.
- A sign indicating the list of certain services (e.g., the Centre anti-poison du Québec) and their telephone numbers must be posted in a conspicuous place near the entrance to the storage premises.
- A civil liability insurance contract for damage to the environment is required for premises with a storage capacity greater than 10,000 litres or 10,000 kilograms for Class 1 to Class 4 unprepared or undiluted pesticides. The contract must include a provision under which the insurer undertakes to notify the concerned Regional Office of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs within 48 hours following the revocation, cancellation, termination or modification of the insurance contract coverage.



Preparation and application regulations

- The preparation of Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 pesticides as well as the loading

and unloading of a sprayer containing such pesticides must be carried out in a containment works. For example, use a plastic container to hold the sprayer for preparing the spray mixture.

- The water supply system used in pesticide preparation must be designed to prevent pesticide backflow to the water supply source (anti-backflow system).
- Equipment used for the application, loading or unloading of pesticides must be in good working order and be adapted to the type of work to be done.
- Adequate equipment and material must be available on premises where pesticides are loaded or prepared capable of stopping any leak or release of pesticides and, if required, of cleaning the premises. In the event of such a leak or release, measures must immediately be taken to stop the leak or release and clean the premises. The person loading or preparing the pesticides must remain on site throughout the operations.
- The preparation and application of any pesticide must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions appearing on the label. Where the instructions and a provision of the *Pesticides Management Code* are inconsistent, the more restrictive of the two applies.
- The use of strychnine and DDT is prohibited.
- Birdseed treated with an avicide and left for harmful birds must be placed in a feeder equipped with a device preventing the wind from carrying the seed away. Bird feeders should be clearly labelled with the avicide's name, the permit holder's name, address and telephone number, as well as the telephone number of the Centre anti-poison du Québec.
- Pesticide aerosol treatments with a fogger in a building used as a dwelling are prohibited; however, this restriction does not apply to pressurized carboys.
- A person applying a pesticide must ensure that:
 - no person other than a person participating in the application is present on the application premises or is exposed to the pesticide;
 - all necessary measures are taken to avoid contaminating a surface or object that must not be treated;
 - no pet is exposed to the pesticide;
 - all openings through which pesticides may infiltrate into a building have been closed when applying pesticides outside a building.
- A regulatory sign must be displayed following the application of pesticides on a lawn or paved surface outside a building.
- The regulatory sign must be in clear sight and display a warning indicating not to touch the treated surfaces for 24 hours after application. It must also indicate the area treated, the date and time of application, the active ingredient used, the registration number of the pesticide, and the name, address and phone number of the permit or certificate holders.



Moreover, when application work includes the exclusive use of biopesticides or pesticides

containing one of the active ingredients listed in Schedule II, the circle and slash on the pictogram may be either red or yellow.

New provisions for C9 and D9 permit holders

It is prohibited to apply a pesticide intended for black fly or adult mosquito control, except following a prior application of larvicide. Pesticide applications to control adults must only be performed as a barrier application on trees and bushes. Therefore, air-borne applications against stinging adult insects are prohibited.

Please note that a certificate of authorization, as described in section 22 of the Environment Quality Act, is required for pesticide applications in rivers, lakes and streams with an outlet.

Since June 2003, anyone wishing to obtain or renew a Subclass CD9 "Application for Control of Stinging Insects" certificate must now pass two new examinations administered by the SOFAD (Québec school board distance training organization).

For more information, please contact the SOFAD's Customized Services department at (514) 529-2801 or by E-mail at info.surmesure@sofad.qc.ca.



Specific regulations in certain locations

It is prohibited to apply certain pesticides (active ingredients listed in Schedule I of the *Pesticides Management Code*) on lawns of State, municipal or metropolitan community land, of a private or public institution offering a college or university education, or of a health and social services institution. It is also prohibited to apply these ingredients on property where sports, recreational, cultural or artistic activities are held for children under 14 years of age. For example, it is prohibited to treat ant nests on municipal green space with carbaryl.

To obtain a list

- of health and social services establishments, please visit the [Web site of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux](#).
- of childcare centres and other childcare services, please see the childcare service locator available on the [Web site of the Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine](#).

- Since April 2006, it is prohibited to apply certain pesticides (active ingredients listed in Schedule I of the *Pesticides Management Code*) on private and commercial property.

- **For childcare centres and schools**

Only biopesticides or pesticides containing an active ingredient listed in Schedule II of the *Pesticides Management Code* may be applied inside or outside childcare centres, daycare centres, stop over centres, nursery schools, home childcare residences, private and public preschools, primary schools and

secondary schools.

- It is prohibited to apply a biopesticide or pesticide containing an active ingredient listed in Schedule II during the establishment's care, teaching or activity periods that take place inside or outside the establishment.
- A minimum eight-hour waiting period must be respected before services or activities resume in areas treated.
- If biopesticides or any active ingredient listed in Schedule II prove ineffective over a period of at least seven days following application, cyfluthrin may be used to control or destroy flying insects, crawling insects, food insects and wood insects under the following conditions:
 - only exterminators holding a C5 permit from the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs can apply this ingredient;
 - at least 24 hours before application, the administration of the establishment must be notified of the reasons for applying the active ingredient, the name of the pesticide and the active ingredient to be applied, the registration number of the pesticide and the proposed date and time of application;
 - the application must be followed by a period of at least 12 hours before services or activities resume in premises treated with cyfluthrin.
- For specific needs, the application of certain other products is also permitted under the first two conditions listed above, for instance:
 - resmethrin to destroy wasps', hornets' or bees' nests;
 - bromadiolone in combination with Bitrex (denatonium benzoate) and bromethalin (with Bitrex) to control rodents (rats, mice). These rodenticides must be used in solid block form and placed in a locked trap to prevent any human contact. Rodenticides must be used only as a last resort on these premises since several types of efficient traps can be acquired for rodent control purposes. Above all, rodent food sources must be eliminated, and rodent access routes uncovered and blocked.

Active ingredients prohibited on certain green spaces (Schedule I of the <i>Pesticides Management Code</i>)	
Category of pesticides	Active ingredients
Insecticides	Carbaryl Dicofol Malathion
Fungicides	Benomyl Captan Chlorothalonil Iprodione Quintozene Thiophanate-methyl
	2,4-D (present as sodium salt) 2,4-D (present as ester) 2,4-D (present as acid) 2,4-D (present as amine salt)

Herbicides	Chlorthal dimethyl MCPA (present as ester) MCPA (present as amine salt) MCPA (present as potassium or sodium salt) Mecoprop (present as acid) Mecoprop (present as amine salt) Mecoprop (present as potassium or sodium salt)
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NB: Active Ingredient Trade Names (Classes [3](#) and [4](#))

Active ingredients allowed* inside and outside establishments governed by the <i>Act respecting childcare centres and childcare services</i>, as well as preschools, primary schools and secondary schools (Schedule II of the <i>Pesticides Management Code</i>)	
Category of pesticides	Active ingredients
Insecticides	Acetamiprid Boric acid Borax Silicon dioxide (diatomaceous earth) Methoprene Disodium octaborate tetrahydrate Ferrous phosphide Insecticide soap Spinosad
Fungicides	Sulfur Calcium sulfide or calcium polysulfide
Herbicides	Acetic acid Mixture of capric and pelargonic acids Herbicide soap
* Biopesticides that are registered as such by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency are to be added to this list.	

NB: Active Ingredient Trade Names ([Classe 3](#) - [Classes 4 and 5](#))

A quick reminder
Following a reassessment by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, indoor and lawn applications of products containing chlorpyrifos have been banned since December 31, 2001. Furthermore, indoor use of products containing diazinon has been prohibited since 2002, as their use on lawns, since 2004.



Required Application Distances

The regulations stipulate application distances to be respected from sensitive elements, watercourses, bodies of water and water catchment works.

- A watercourse or body of water includes streams, small and large rivers,

lakes, intermittent watercourses, ponds, marshes, swamps and peat bogs, and excludes ditches, municipal aerated ponds and artificial lakes without any outlet.

The relative distance from a watercourse is measured from the normal high water mark of the watercourse. An easy way to establish the normal high water mark is to determine the place where there is a change from a predominance of aquatic plants to a predominance of terrestrial plants. Thus the high water mark corresponds to the place where nature itself has established this point of balance between aquatic and terrestrial vegetation.

- A catchment works includes facilities used for the production of spring water or mineral water, the supply of a waterworks, catchment works designed for surface water intake for water intended for human consumption or any other groundwater catchment works.

The following table summarizes the application distances to be respected according to the premises where storage, preparation and application activities take place.

APPLICATION DISTANCES TO BE RESPECTED DURING PESTICIDE STORAGE AND USE

Target for protection	Storage Class 1 to Class 3 pesticides	Preparation Holders of permits and certificates	Application Holders of permits and certificates
Watercourses or bodies of water	30 m	30 m	3 m NB: applies to any user of Class 1 to Class 5 pesticides, including ordinary citizens
Catchment works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bottled spring or mineral water • waterworks if average operating capacity is greater than 75 m³/day 	100 m	100 m	100 m
Other catchment works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surface water for human consumption • groundwater for any use 	30 m	30 m	30 m Exception: 3 metres for work requiring a Subclass C5 or D5 permit

If someone you know becomes ill from pesticides

Guide the person to a well-ventilated area and ask him/her to lie down on

his/her side.

Then contact the **Centre anti-poison du Québec, at 1 800 463-5060 (toll free telephone emergency, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or in the Québec City area (local call) at (418) 656-8090**, and follow their instructions to the letter. If the person's condition appears serious, go to the hospital immediately, making sure to bring the label of the product in question.

The information provided in this document is in no way meant to replace the text of the [Pesticides Management Code](#). The full text is published in the March 19, 2003, edition of the *Gazette officielle* of Publications du Québec.

Other link

Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) - [Pest Notes](#)

“Avoid pesticides... a natural thing to do.”



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