

Implementing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program

The Schoolchildren's Health Act of 2006 amended G.S. 115C-12 to add a new subdivision (33) and amended G.S. 115C-47 to add a new subdivision (45), which address development and implementation of an IPM program for schools and the notification requirements when pesticides are used on school property.

Specifically, the Act states regarding implementation of an IPM program and notification:

- G.S. 115C-12(33) Duty to Protect the Health of School-Age Children From Toxicants at School. - The State Board shall address public health and environmental issues in the classroom and on school grounds by doing all of the following:
- d. Establish guidelines for Integrated Pest Management consistent with the policy of the North Carolina School Boards Association, Inc., as published in 2004. These guidelines may be updated as needed to reflect changes in technology.
 - e. Establish guidelines for notification of students= parents, guardians, or custodians as well as school staff of pesticide use on school grounds.
- G.S.115C-47(45) To Address the Use of Pesticides in Schools. - Local boards of education shall adopt policies that address the use of pesticides in schools. These policies shall:
- a. Require the principal or the principal=s designee to annually notify the students= parents, guardians, or custodians as well as school staff of the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification. Such notification shall be made, to the extent possible, at least 72 hours in advance of nonscheduled pesticide use on school property. The notification requirements under their subdivision do not apply to the application of the following types of pesticide products: antimicrobial cleaners, disinfectants, self-contained baits and crack-and-crevice treatments, and any pesticide products classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as belonging to the U.S.E.P.A. Toxicity Class IV, Arelatively nontoxic@ (no signal word required on the product=s label).
 - b. Require the use of Integrated Pest Management. As used in this sub-division, AIntegrated Pest Management@ or AIPM@ means the comprehensive approach to pest management that combines biological, physical, chemical, and cultural tactics as well as effective, economical, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable methods to prevent and solve pest problems that emphasizes pest prevention and provides a decision-making process for determining if, when, and where pest suppression is needed and what control tactics and methods are appropriate.

The implementation portion of this act, G.S. 115C-47(45)b., becomes effective October 1, 2011. The remainder of this act, including the notification portions, became effective October 1, 2006.

Although implementation of an IPM program is many years away, it is recommended that LEAs begin to take the necessary steps to implement their IPM program as soon as possible and not delay. Development of the pesticide notification procedures needs to be accomplished immediately.

The North Carolina School Boards Association, Inc. policy referred to in G.S. 115C-12(33)d. above can be found at the following web site: <http://schoolipm.ncsu.edu/IPM%20policy.doc>

Additional resources are available on line at the following web sites:

1. Policy manual AIntegrated Pest Management for North Carolina Schools@: http://schoolipm.ncsu.edu/schoolipm_manual.pdf
2. School IPM resources: <http://schoolipm.ncsu.edu/schoolipmresources.html>
3. Sample contract, bid specifications and guides: <http://schoolipm.ncsu.edu/CONTRACT%202005.doc>
4. Sample notification guidelines and forms in English and Spanish for advanced public notification of pesticide application on school grounds: <http://www.pested.org/programs/school.html>

Attached herewith are two documents which were developed by Godfrey Nalyanya, PhD. of the NCSU School IPM Project in the Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University. These documents outline simple, comprehensive steps to implementing an IPM program in schools.

For additional IPM information, visit the web sites listed above or contact one of the following:

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For information about the arsenic-treated wood (CCA) and mold and mildew portions of the Schoolchildren's Health Act, visit the NCDPI School Planning Section web site: <http://www.schoolclearinghouse.org/>

Attachments

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