



HONG KONG
PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

CODE OF PRACTICE

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PEST CONTROL COMPANIES

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This code of practice drawn up by the Hong Kong Pest Management Association with assistance from the Hong Kong Government is aimed at providing a guideline to companies and persons operating a pest control business.
- 1.2 The guidance provided in this code centers mainly on the safe and proper application of pesticides. However, the guidance cannot deal with every situation. Companies or persons operating a pest control business should not assume strict observance of the code will always be sufficient.

2.0 Obligation of the Companies

- 2.1 The company, which means an organization or a person operating a pest control business, must meet all requirements, if any, by government if pesticides are used as part of the business.
- 2.2 The company must employ a person who holds some form of proper qualification or practical experience in the pest control field on the use of pesticides. This qualification or experience must be acceptable to the Hong Kong Pest Management Association.
- 2.3 The company must ensure that its employees involved in the application of pesticides have adequate training, instruction and guidance in the safe, efficient and humane use of pesticides and are competent for the duties they are called on to perform.
- 2.4 The company must make adequate provision of facilities and equipment for the safe storage, preparation, use and disposal of pesticides and also for the personal protection and hygiene of their employees.

PART II - RULES AND GUIDELINES

3.0 Basic Information

- 3.1 The company should maintain up-to-date knowledge of:-
 - 3.1.1 Fire regulations, legislation on environmental protection and any other legal requirements which apply to the use of pesticides;
 - 3.1.2 Products to be used, having especial regard to potential hazards to living organisms, the environment and fire precautions necessary for safe use;

- 3.1.3 Features of protective clothing and application equipment to prevent operator contamination;
- 3.1.4 Proper storage, handling, mixing and disposal of empty containers, surplus pesticides and any product having a fire hazard;
- 3.1.5 Necessary first-aid and the emergency action to take in the event of fire, accidental poisoning and spillage or leakage of pesticides (gaseous fumigants);
- 3.1.6 Safe procedure to be followed before, during and after application; and
- 3.1.7 Correct procedure for cleaning of all equipment and clothing used.

4.0 Planning and Preparation of Operation

- 4.1 Pesticides should be used only judiciously and when absolutely necessary. The decision on which pesticides to use and how to apply them should be made by the companies only after:-
 - 4.1.1 Correctly identifying the pest and the degree of infestation;
 - 4.1.2 Considering any alternative control measures;
 - 4.1.3 Considering any previous experience of the problem; and
 - 4.1.4 Determining whether it is the right time to use a pesticide;
- 4.2 Having decided that use of a pesticide is absolutely necessary, consideration should be given to safe use as well as efficacy.
- 4.3 All pesticides on stock should be clearly labeled in a form comprehensible to the applicators.
- 4.4 The most safe and proper method of application should be used.

5.0 Directions and Instructions to Applicators

- 5.1 A manual detailing the safe and proper application of pesticides should be prepared for use and reference by applicators. The manual should be based on the recommendations listed in the manufacturer's manual or label and should be in a form an language comprehensible to the applicators. Its contents should be clearly explained to each and every applicator as they start their employment and at regular intervals thereafter.
- 5.2 The manual should include information on the following:-
 - 5.2.1 General information on types, formulations, modes of action and possible hazards of the pesticides used;
 - 5.2.2 General information on the types of equipment and their proper care and maintenance;
 - 5.2.3 Necessary preparation e.g. to remove all food absorbent material, to keep away all pets and children etc. on the premises to be treated;

- 5.2.4 All safety precautionary measures to be observed when handling and applying pesticides;
- 5.2.5 How to select suitable type of equipment and what to check before use;
- 5.2.6 Proper and safe disposal of surplus pesticides and empty containers'
- 5.2.7 Post-treatment checking of treated premises; and
- 5.2.8 Action to be taken in the event of accidental poisoning spillage of leakage.

5.3 In the application of pesticides, cumulative exposure time should not usually exceed six hours per day. This limit should be subject to the particular pesticide used, volume, quantity, formulation, method of application, environmental conditions, etc. or the manufacturer's instruction manual for the specific pesticides used, if applicable.

6.0 Record Keeping

- 6.1 Adequate records must be kept of all operations involving applications of pesticides. Such records are essential for future reference and in case of accident.

7.0 Client's Right To Know

- 7.1 In order to secure the confidence of clients, it is advisable to prepare some formal notes which clients may find useful when employing the company's service. Important points, particularly on personal safety, should be explained to clients in case they are illiterate or fail to read the notes.
- 7.2 The notes for clients should include :-
 - 7.2.1 safety measures to be observed during and after treatment
 - 7.2.2 action to be taken in the event of accident during treatment
- 7.3 If the client requests information on the identity of the pesticide to be used, the company must disclose such information.