
Pest Management for Small Animals:

*A Training Manual for
Commercial Pesticide Applicators
and Registered Technicians
(Category 7G)*

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Preface

This manual is intended to prepare pesticide applicators in category 7G, pest management for small animals, for certification or registered technician status under the Michigan Pesticide Control Act of 1976, as amended. Read the introduction to this manual to understand your responsibilities for obtaining the appropriate credentials to apply pesticides and how to use this manual.

Contributors

This manual, "Pest Management for Small Animals: A Training Manual for Commercial Pesticide Applicators and Registered Technicians," was produced by Michigan State University, Pesticide Education Program in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Principal participants in the project represented MSU, MDA and small animal industry professionals:

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INTRODUCTION

This manual presents basic pest, pest management and pesticide handling information for persons who apply pesticides on animals or in places where animals are kept — pest management for small animals, category 7G.

People use pesticides for many purposes. Pesticides protect humans, food and non-food crops, homes, pets and livestock, and keep various industrial processes pest free and functioning efficiently. To better protect the environment and human health by assuring the safe use and application of pesticides, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers the certification and registration program for pesticide applicators. Certification or registration requires obtaining the necessary knowledge to purchase and safely use pesticides.

In 1991, Regulation 636 was passed as part of the Michigan Pesticide Control Act amendments of 1988. This regulation requires persons who apply pesticides for a commercial purpose or as a scheduled and required work assignment in the course of his or her employment to be either certified pesticide applicators or registered technicians. Numerous types of businesses, activities and individuals are subject to this requirement. The following pest control categories are defined in Regulation 636:

- (1A) Field crops
- (1B) Vegetable crops
- (1C) Fruit crops
- (1D) Livestock
- (2) Forest
- (2A) Wood preservation
- (3A) Turfgrass
- (3B) Ornamental (exterior trees, shrubs and groundcovers)
- (4) Seed treatment
- (5) Aquatic (lakes, ponds, streams, etc.)
- (5A) Swimming pools
- (5B) Microbial (cooling towers, air washers, etc.)
- (6) Right-of-way
- (7A) General pest management (pests in, on or around human dwellings, institutions, food-handling establishments, etc.)
- (7B) Wood-destroying organisms

- (7C) Contractual public health
- (7D) Vertebrate
- (7E) Interiorscape
- (7F) Mosquito management
- (7G) Small animals
- (8) Public health
- (9) Regulatory
- (10) Demonstration and research

To become a commercial pesticide applicator in category 7G, pest management for small animals, an individual must complete an application form, pay the \$50 certification fee and pass a written multiple-choice/true-false examination relating to the information found in this manual. Obtain an application form for commercial pesticide applicator certification from the nearest MDA office (telephone numbers and addresses are listed in Appendix C) or from your county MSU Extension office. When you are prepared to take the exam, call the MDA to reserve a seat at a scheduled examination time and location. Take your completed application form and check or money order for the \$50 certification fee to the exam site. The certification credentials you receive after passing the exam are valid for three years.

To become a registered technician in category 7G, you must pass an examination that tests your knowledge of the general, “core” pesticide information found in this manual, chapters 1-7 only. Follow the same procedures as above for taking the exam. Next, you must undergo category-specific training. This training must deliver specific information to properly prepare you for your job tasks. The training must be approved by the MDA and administered by an MDA-approved trainer. Obtain an application for registered technicians and bring it to the exam site with the \$25 registration fee. The registered technician credentials you earn by passing the exam and going through training are valid for three years. For more information, refer to Chapter 1: Laws and Regulations, or call your regional MDA office.

This manual is not intended to provide all the information necessary for effective pest control with pesticides labeled for use on or around animals. Obtain up-to-date information about recommended materials and methods from labels, manufacturers, reference manuals, Extension specialists and professional associations. The