



Pesticide Storage & Mixing and Loading Pads Turfgrass Environmental Education Program

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Regulation 637 of the Michigan Pest Control Act (Act 171) has recently outlined procedures and facilities for the handling and use of pesticides. This includes mixing and loading pads for commercial applicators. A commercial applicator is someone who applies pesticides for hire, or on the property of another as a required and scheduled work assignment. This involves most of the applicators in the turf industry like golf course, lawn care, grounds and park maintenance and those who work at municipalities or schools. Private applicators are those who apply products in the production of a commodity such as sod producers.

Rule number six in the regulation describes mixing and loading pads and rule number seven describes washing and rinsing pads. Some of the most important points in these rules are:

- The pads need to be in place on October 29, 1993.
- A pad is required if you mix/load or wash/rinse more than 10 days on one site. A site is defined as an area of 1/2 mile radius.
- If placed outside, the pad must contain a 6" rainfall.
- If placed inside, the pad must contain 1 minute of discharge from your filling device.
- The pad needs to be an impervious surface. This can be sealed concrete, chemical resistant plastic, etc.

The storage of pesticides are not regulated by Regulation 637, but the new Regulation 640 outlines the storage of bulk quantities which is anything greater than 55 gallons liquid or 100 pounds dry. The concepts of mixing/loading pads and storage facilities will be reviewed at this stop.

I will be conducting a pesticide storage, mixing/loading pad seminar in September 1993 which will provide information on these structures in much more detail. The dates and places are:

Wednesday September 8, 1993
Farmington Hills Holiday Inn - Farmington Hills

Friday September 10, 1993
Walli's Motor Lodge - Flint

Tuesday September 14, 1993
Grayling Holiday Inn - Grayling

Thursday September 16, 1993
Forest Hills Country Club - Grand Rapids

Information and registration for this seminar will be available at this stop or can be obtained by calling me at 517/353-0860.