

Effective January 1, 2002 Only Licensed Pesticide Applicators Can Apply Pesticides to Golf Courses

Effective January 1, 2002, only licensed pesticide applicators can apply pesticides to golf course property. This new requirement applies to every golf course in Minnesota and is a significant departure from past pesticide application practices. The Minnesota Pesticide Control Law states:

Minn. Stat. 18B.345 Pesticide Application On Golf Courses.

(a) Application of a pesticide to the property of a golf course must be preformed by: (1) a structural pest control applicator; (2) a commercial or noncommercial pesticide applicator with appropriate use certification; or (3) an aquatic pest control applicator. (b) Pesticide determined by the commissioner to be sanitizers and disinfectants are exempt from the requirements in paragraph (a).

All pesticide applicators must be licensed prior to making pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, etc.) applications to golf course property. Golf courses may comply with this new requirement by employing applicators with pesticide applicator licenses that enable them to make pesticide applications for hire (e.g. commercial, aquatic, structural, etc.). Golf courses may also comply by having staff obtain a noncommercial license in the appropriate use categories.

Golf courses that want to get their own staff licensed must identify potential applicators and possible application scenarios, to determine who needs a license and use categories. An applicator applying a pesticide (excluding sanitizers and disinfectants) with hand or ground based equipment must be licensed in Category A (General Ground).

A golf course applicator must also be licensed in one or more additional categories depending upon the target of the pesticide application. Applicators applying herbicides, insecticides or fungicides to course grounds must have a Category A (General Ground) and E (Turf and Ornamentals) license. Other pesticide applications for control of pests in or around structures or water (e.g. aquatic, rodents, mosquitoes, wasps, gophers, etc) require other use categories.

An applicator is not licensed and cannot apply pesticides until all requirements to obtain a license have been met and the applicator's identification card is received. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) mails a license identification card after an applicator submits an application form, pays the license fees and passes the closed-book-tests in the appropriate use categories. The University of Minnesota Bookstore at 612/624-9200 sells study materials for the category tests.

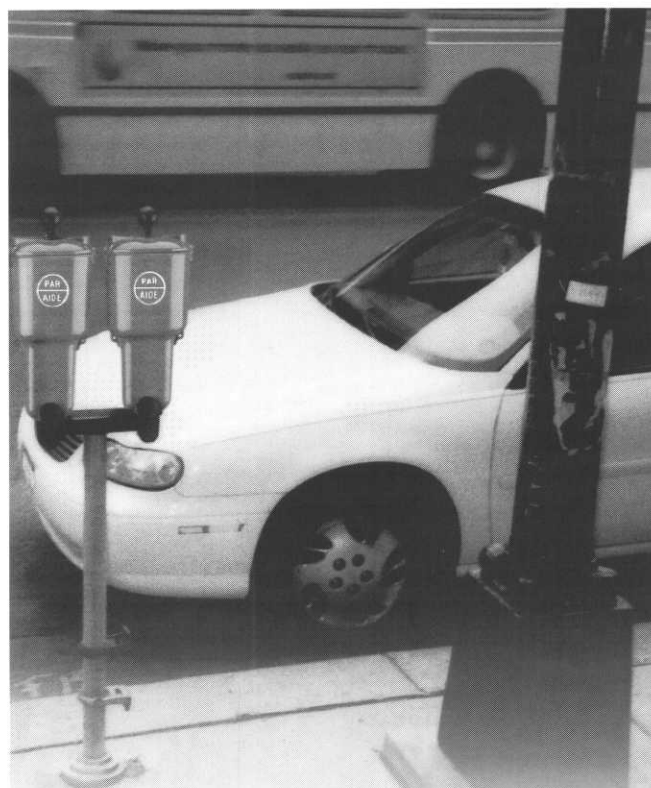
A Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators License application form is enclosed along with a complete list of License Categories on the reverse side. A U of M Pesticide Applicators Study Materials Order Form is also enclosed with a list of MDA Agricultural Chemical Investigators and an area map showing their area of responsibility on the reverse side. A two-sided list of county officials serving as Pesticide Applicator Exam

Contacts is also enclosed. Much of the enclosed information is also available on the MDA web site www.mda.state.mn.us.

Applicators may take certification exams Monday - Friday at our offices in St. Paul; to schedule a test in St. Paul contact Xia Moua at 651/296-5137. Also, MDA Agricultural Chemical Investigators and designated county officials throughout the state offer the exams. Other testing opportunities in the Twin Cities and in greater Minnesota are also available. Arrangement have been made to offer one-time group testing at the locations listed below.

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Please contact Joseph Spitzmueller with questions about certification, use categories or licensing at the number above or by email at Joseph.Spitzmueller@state.mn.us or contact John Wagner at 651/297-7122 or John.Wagner@state.mn.us.



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