

MDA Initiates Regulation Compliance Program Specific for Golf Courses

I am excited to work as the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) golf course compliance assistant to the Minnesota golf course industry. My name is Corinne du Preez, and in this role I will provide you with education regarding pesticide use, handling, and storage. This is a new outreach effort working with Jack MacKenzie that will involve various activities, including a series of bulletins published through the MGCSA Hole Notes starting this season. This is the first bulletin in 2014 and it provides an introduction to the MDA's authority for inspection, an inspection overview, and future topics.

Authority for Inspection:

Inspection and investigations are conducted by the MDA to document compliance under the authority of:

- Minnesota Statutes 18B; Pesticide Control
- Minnesota Statutes 18C; Minnesota Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment
- Minnesota Statutes 18D; Agricultural Chemical Liability

Authority for entry, inspection, and sampling is found in:

- Minnesota Statutes Section 18D.201

Minnesota Statutes and Rules can be found on the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes website: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/>

Inspection Overview:

During an inspection, an Agricultural Chemical Investigator (ACI) observes business practices to document compliance with Statutes and Rules. The following are primary items an ACI will check:

1. Pesticide Applicator License & Category
2. Pesticide Container Disposal
3. Application Records
4. Pesticide & Fertilizer Mixing and Loading Area(s)
5. Pesticide Labels
6. Backflow Prevention Device(s) on Water Supply
7. Incident Response Plan/Release Response Plan

8. Pesticide Rinsate Use
9. Well Location(s)

Future Topics:

There are rules and regulations specific to golf courses. I will highlight one topic in each of the next five bulletins. The following topics were chosen based on compliance concerns documented by the MDA during inspections at golf courses.

1. Backflow Prevention
2. Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage
3. Incident Response Plan or Release Response Plan
4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
5. Applicators' License and Use Categories

To read about MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division's events, programs, policies, regulations, and enforcement actions, follow this link to the current issue of the MDA Update: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/mdaup-date.aspx>.

The MDA and MGCSA will evaluate and perhaps modify how I approach this project. The goals are to develop better communication with you, improve compliance with our regulations, and make it easier for you to comply. As your MDA golf course compliance assistant, I'll be interested to hear your opinions, ideas, and questions about your golf course as it relates to requirements in Minnesota Statutes and/or Rules. Please contact me anytime at the number or email address below.

Thank You,

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