

MEDIA STATEMENT

UNREGISTERED PEST CONTROL OPERATORS POSE A SERIOUS RISK TO YOUR HEALTH

19 APRIL 2016

UNREGISTERED PEST CONTROL OPERATORS CAUSE HAVOC WITH HUMAN HEALTH

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Recent incidents in which pest control operators applied pesticides without being registered by the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 to do so, highlighted the risk that such individuals pose to society and the environment. An unregistered pest control operator working in the Eastern Cape applied methamidophos contrary to the label instructions in a government office last year with near disastrous results for the employees. A most recent case was in the Johannesburg area where an unregistered pest control operator sprayed cypermethrin all over kitchen counters, food utensils and kitchenware at a very high dosage. Some unregistered pest control operators still use chlorpyrifos that has been prohibited for any domestic use purposes, including professional pest control services. In the agricultural sector individuals offer pest control services to farmers without being registered and by using equipment that is not suitable for responsible and lawful pesticide application. It is also common practice to use false registration certificates in order to obtain contracts from clients.

CropLife South Africa (CLSA) and the **South African Pest Control Association (SAPCA)** issue a precaution to the public and state departments to ensure that those offering pest control services are registered as pest control operators by the Registrar of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). A registered pest control operator must be in possession of a registration certificate with a P-number. False certificates often have incorrect expiry dates while the correct expiry date is always the 30th of June in a given year. Such certificates are valid for three years. A pest control operator must have the registration certificate on his person when performing pest control services. A team performing pest control services may only operate in the presence and under supervision of a registered pest control operator with a valid registration certificate. The certificate will state in which fields the operator is qualified in for example structural pest control, fumigation, industrial vegetation management, etc.

Pest control operators are compelled by law to present the following details to clients:

1. A quotation stating the name, contact details and P-number of the registered pest control operator.
2. The trade name and active ingredient of the pesticide that will be applied, the dosage that will be applied and the pest that to be controlled.
3. Warnings such as evacuating premises before the pest control operation commences and time lapse before such premises may be occupied after the control operation.

Pesticides may only be used for the purposes and in the manners as directed by the label instructions. Should a pest control operator attempt to apply a pesticide that is not registered or not explicitly directed for such use by the label instructions, the client should terminate all further dealings with such a person.

Clients can also check on the validity of pesticides and what they are registered for by interrogating the CLSA Database on agricultural remedies on:

http://www.croplife.co.za/Portals/13/Croplife_Documents/Pesticides.pdf

Clients may also call SAPCA to check whether a pest control operator offering such services is actually registered.

Should clients feel the need to check on any compliance issues they should call SAPCA or CLSA. We offer our expert advice to ensure responsible and effective pest management. However, should pest control operators contravene Act No. 36 of 1947, complaints will be submitted to the Inspection Services of the Directorate of Agriculture Inputs Control who will investigate these matters and prosecute offenders.

For further information please contact:

Ms Lynette Cokayne, CEO of SAPCA on 012 654 8038 or info@sapca.org.za or visit the SAPCA website www.sapca.co.za where all active members are listed with their contact details;

or

Mr Tom Mabesa, Executive Director of CropLife SA on 011 805 2000.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. CropLife South Africa is the industry association of the agrochemical industry and represents manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and consultants operating in the agrochemical arena. See www.croplife.co.za for more details.
2. The South African Pest Control Association is an association of registered pest control operators. It also offers SAQA certified training courses for the pest control industry through the PCSIB which is the training division of SAPCA.

3. The Inspectorate of the Directorate of Agriculture Inputs Control is the law enforcement entity of the Directorate that hosts the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 and his staff.
4. Any person is allowed to perform his own pest control operations with pesticides that are registered for those particular purposes but when a person offers pest control services as a business the person must be registered.
5. Pest control operators must comply with all sections of Act No. 36 of 1947, the general regulations for agricultural remedies and the pest control operator regulations.