

Government Relations Meeting- 1QTR 2019

CPCO of GA has established a Legislative Committee to develop government relations. Quarterly meetings with the GDA will take place this year to discuss questions and create a stronger working partnership. Mark Holder, Terry Bowen and Glenda Lehmborg from CPCO of GA met with Derrick Lastinger, Tim Taylor and Alex Conti from the Structural Pest Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

The following are the Q&A's from that meeting.

1. If the Rules vary from the Guidance Fact Sheet which will be the standards that a company is held to? Examples: Official Waiver in Rules is not the same as the one in the Guidance Fact Sheet

The Rules are the governing authority and will be the standard which must be met to meet requirements. The Guidance Fact sheets are in place to instruct, explain and help clarify the rules. The Official Waiver in the Rules and/or the Guidance Fact sheet would be acceptable. If the Company is using the AAT, the Official Waiver in the Guidance Fact sheet should be used.

2. How does a company write "customer doesn't want work done" on Official Waiver?
A reason must be given for why a customer does not want the work to be done. For example, "Customer does not want the marble tile patio to be drilled due to aesthetic reasons". This area should be marked on a graphed diagram to indicate the area waived.

3. After a regular company inspection, is there something that will be given to the company that states an overall analysis? When will this be received?

When a regular company inspection occurs, the inspector may or may not be able to complete the entire review onsite. The field inspector will inform the company of any non-compliance apparent during the on-site review. A Field Inspection Notice of Compliance or a Field Inspection Notice of Violation will be issued and mailed to the company. After the field inspector has done the review, the inspection records may get further review by a supervisor. Occasionally, an additional notice is needed to communicate compliance concerns.

4. When company has gone paperless, and has a customer that does not have access to email or doesn't want it sent by email, can the company email the pesticide use record to their office to be printed and mailed to the customer?

A pesticide use record, must be left at the time of service. If your customer does not have email or does not agree to electronic documentation, you must leave a handwritten pesticide use record at that time.

5. If the electronic acknowledgement statement is part of service agreement does it have to have its own signature line?

Because the electronic acknowledge statement is truly an acknowledgement, legally there needs to be a separate space for either initials or signature from the customer.

6. Since the Commission has decided that the training reference to be used for the 10 hours of classroom training will be the Employee Registration Manual, will the Department of Agriculture accept training that covers pest biology and identification as well as integrated pest management since they are not listed in the topics in the Rules?

The current form that has been prescribed by the Commission to document the 10-hour Classroom Training includes 10 categories of training which do not include pest biology and identification or IPM. That training is encouraged and there is not a cap for the maximum amount of training a new employee has prior to taking the exam. However, the topics on the form will remain as they are and must be addressed in the 10 hours of classroom training that is required prior to taking the registered employee exam.

7. How can CPCO of GA be more informed about legislative events?

The Department suggested greater involvement in NPMA to become more involved with Legislative efforts and discussions.

8. What are some ways CPCO of GA can be of help to the GDA?

Continue to encourage members to contact the Department if they have questions. Continue to pass on information from the Department to pest control professionals. The Department has welcomed our quarterly meetings and will continue to meet in the future as well as provide articles to publish in the PCO Pro Magazine.

9. Why does the **Application for Employee Registration Card** form that people receive from the testing centers when they pass the Employee Registration Exam, give a date that is only two weeks from the testing date to apply for the ID card when Rule 620-3-.02(1)(e)5 states, "Payment by the Licensee of a registration fee of ten (10) dollars to the Secretary within ninety (90) days of notification of passing the examination(s), otherwise reexamination will be required."?

The employee must meet all of these requirements BEFORE working under the 15 day/temp rule: complete 10 hours classroom training, 70 hours on the job training, pass the registered employee exam, and submit the application and \$10 to GDA. Once all of these are completed, the employee can work for 15 days under the 15 day/temp rule. After the 15 days, the technician cannot work without being with a Certified Operator or Registered Employee until he/she has their permanent license. The 15 day grace period was implemented to assist company's in putting their new employee to work right away, however, the permanent card must be received before the new employee can work alone after this grace period.

10. Does the GDA send an email to every DCO when there is a new set of Rules?

The Department sends all rule change notifications and new Guidance Fact Sheets to Certified Operators but not the new rules. Check the GDA website at <http://www.aqr.georgia.gov/structural-pest-control-commission.aspx> to check Rules and Guidance policies. If you are not sure whether you are on the mailing list to receive these notifications, contact the Structural Pest Control Department and asked that your email be added.

11. Is it possible that the Training Deadline be printed on the back of each Registered Tech and Certified Operator's license?

The training deadline for Certified Operators used to be printed on the back of the license card, however, this caused confusion with 2 dates on the card. The date on the back of the license card indicates the license renewal date. Check <http://www.kellysolutions.com/ga/structural/> to see training deadlines. Remember that all CEU hours must be completed 90 days prior to the certification expiration date.

12. How often will we get articles from the Department for the PCO Pro Magazine?

An article will be provided to CPCO of GA to put in the PCO Pro Magazine to keep communication clear from the GDA. The Department will make effort to at least have articles on a quarterly basis.

CPCO of GA's Legislative Committee will meet with the GDA on a quarterly basis to bring up questions and/or concerns from the pest control industry. If you have something that you would us to put on the list of topics, please email glenda@cpcoofga.com.