

## Pesticide Use at Schools Rule

### 1. What is the purpose of this rule?

The purpose of this rule (*357 IAC 1-16*) is to minimize the potential for pesticide exposure to students at schools by ensuring that:

- (1) pesticides are used only by:
  - (A) a certified applicator; or
  - (B) an individual operating under the direct supervision of the certified applicator;
- (2) pesticides are not used when students are in the pesticide application area;
- (3) pesticides are stored in locked storage areas;
- (4) except for immediate health threat situations, school corporations provide advance notice of pesticide applications to school parents, guardians, and staff on a notification registry;
- (5) school corporations keep records of pesticide applications; and
- (6) pesticides with lowest hazards to children are used whenever practical and effective.

### 2. When does this rule become effective?

The requirements in this rule become effective on **November 20, 2010**, but please **DO NOT PANIC !** The Office of the Indiana State Chemist (*OISC*) is the state agency that is responsible for administration and enforcement of this rule. OISC is committed over the next year or so to work cooperatively with schools, their trade associations, and other related groups to spread the word, do school visits and inspections, and provide direction and assistance to schools to help get them into compliance.

### 3. What pesticides are covered by this rule?

The term “pesticides” includes insecticides, herbicides (*weed killers and weed killers impregnated onto fertilizer granules*), fungicides, rodenticides (*rat and mouse baits*), etc. In fact, any product that makes a claim that it controls, repels, kills, or prevents any type of pest is a pesticide. There are, however, some pesticides that are exempted from this rule. **Exempted** pesticides include disinfectants, germicides, toilet bowl cleaners, sanitizers, water purifiers, swimming pool chemicals, manufactured enclosed insecticides (*usually insecticide baits*), and self-applied personal insect repellents.

#### **4. What schools are covered by this rule?**

All elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, public schools, nonpublic schools, and private schools accredited by the Indiana Department of Education are covered by this rule. Schools not covered by this rule would include Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, daycare centers, home schools, colleges and universities.

#### **5. What pesticide users (applicators) are covered by this rule?**

All pesticide applications to school property (*both buildings and grounds used for the instruction and recreation of students*) are covered by this rule. This includes any pesticide applications by school staff (*including teachers*), hired contractors (*pest management professionals, pest control operators, lawn care professionals, etc.*), and volunteers working for the school or the school's athletic department. Pesticide "use" includes any application, mixing, loading, storage, transportation, or disposal of pesticides at the school.

#### **6. Are there any special pesticide use restrictions at schools?**

Pesticides must not be applied at schools during normal instructional hours when school is in session. However, a pesticide may be applied during school hours only if :

- 1) there is a pest present that poses an immediate health threat to the students (*i.e. stinging wasps or bees*);
- 2) the application is to an area not immediately adjacent to a student occupied building and the students are kept out of that area for at least 4 hours; **OR**
- 3) the application is a rodenticide bait applied in areas that are totally inaccessible to the students.

#### **7. Are there special pesticide storage requirements at schools?**

It is best not to store pesticides at schools at all. However, if you do, the pesticide must be stored in clearly marked (*preferably original*) container in a locked area separated by a solid wall from food storage, food service, and students.

#### **8. What pesticide application records must be kept?**

The school corporation or the pesticide contractor hired by the school must keep written/printed/electronic records of the application for at least 2 years. Those records must also be made available to anyone for inspection or copying upon request. For specifics on what records to keep click [HERE](#) .

**9. Are there any advanced notification requirements prior to applying pesticides?**

At least 48 hours prior to a pesticide application the school corporation must provide planned pesticide application details to parents, guardians, and staff members requesting to be notified. Parents, guardians and staff must be registered with the school to receive such notice. For details on what information must be provided to meet this requirement click [HERE](#).

**10. Must all school applicators be certified or can some applicators be supervised ?**

The rule allows for direct supervision of non-certified applicators. There are a variety of supervision requirements and scenarios that may apply depending on whether the application is being made by a hired pesticide contractor or an in-house school staff member. OISC encourages all pesticide applicators to become trained and certified, but it is possible for one or more certified applicators in the school corporation to supervise several non-certified school employees. For details on the supervision requirements click [HERE](#) .

**11. Is there a list of low hazard pesticide products to be used at schools?**

Indiana does not currently have a specific list of low hazard pesticide products for use in schools. There are a variety of factors that go into evaluating the relative hazard of a pesticide to children beyond just the toxicity of the product. What form the product is used in (*liquid, dust, granule, paste, bait, etc.*), how much of the product is required to be applied, how often the product must be applied, where the product is applied, how long product residues will be present, what the routes of exposure to children may be, etc. all are part of what determines hazard. However, in general, the Indiana Pesticide Review Board suggests that, whenever possible, low exposure products such as baits and gels be used in areas where students can't get into.

**12. How do I comply with the applicator certification & licensing requirement?**

Schools can either hire licensed pesticide contractors (*category 7a for indoor & general building pests OR category 3b for turf, athletic field, & weed pests*) or they can get in-house school staff pesticide applicators certified & licensed by OISC. For details on the certification & licensing process click [HERE](#) . To search for currently licensed pesticide contractors, both category 3b (grounds, turf & athletic fields pest management) and category 7a (*buildings & health related pest management*) click [HERE](#).