1997

PESTICIDE PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES

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The pesticide section of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) is charged with administration of the Indiana Pesticide Registration Law (I.C. 15-3-3.5), the Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Law(I.C.15-3-3.6), and also represents the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) in Indiana for the purpose of enforcing the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). A full time field staff of five performs inspections at licensees, samples pesticide products and devices, and investigates complaints concerning the use or alleged misuse of pesticide products.

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING SUMMARY

Licensed Businesses	1782
For-Hire Applicators	3941
Not-For-Hire Applicators	956
Public Applicators	743
Registered Technicians	1782
Restricted Use Dealers Registrations	598
Private Applicator Permits	16,703

The monitoring of certification, licensing, and registration of all individuals and companies that apply pesticides for-hire continued to be a priority for OISC. In 1997, there were 1782 licensed businesses and 3941 certified applicators associated with those businesses. Restricted Use Dealer Registrations were issued to 598 businesses who wished to sell restricted use pesticides and 16,703 private applicator permits were held by farmers who wished to apply restricted use pesticides for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities.

In accordance with the mandate of the Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Law to investigate incidents involving the use or alleged misuse of pesticides, 156 complaints were investigated. Complaints involving wood infesting pest inspection reports, termite control and agricultural drift once again topped the list of cases investigated. As a result of these investigations, 63 enforcement letters were issued, and 4 administrative hearings were conducted. Eighty-eight civil penalties were assessed in fiscal year 1997. Civil penalties collected by OISC are transferred to the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and must then be used for pesticide education purposes.

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

Complaints investigated	156
Residue Use Samples	169
Enforcement Letters Issued	63
Administrative Hearings	4
License Revocations/Suspensions	0
Criminal Actions	1
Forwarded to US EPA	0
Civil Penalties Assessed	88

The Indiana Pesticide Registration Law requires the registration of all pesticides or pesticidal devices that are used, produced, distributed, sold, displayed or offered for sale within the state of Indiana. The law defines pesticide as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating a pest or used as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. OISC maintains a complete label file for all pesticides registered in the state of Indiana.

In 1997, 13,429 pesticides were registered by manufacturers or formulators. Inspections conducted at pesticide producer establishments and in market places resulted in the collection and analysis of 155 pesticide formulation samples. Nineteen of these samples failed to meet their label guarantees or had label defects and were classified as adulterated or misbranded. During the year, it was necessary to issue 35 Stop Sale, Use or Removal Orders for misbranded or unregistered pesticides.

In 1997 OISC implemented a new process for constructing certification exams called validation. This process requires the formation of an advisory committee which consists of pesticide applicators who represent a particular section of the industry. The committee is intimately involved in each step of the test construction process. Constructing certification exams by this method helps to ensure that the tests accurately reflect current competency levels that are required of pesticide applicators.

Working with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, OISC also established a statewide ground water monitoring network in 1997. Sampling of the network is scheduled to begin in 1998 with specific monitoring for problematic pesticides in ground water. Monitoring will help to establish baseline levels for certain pesticides and will also help to evaluate the success of the state pesticide ground water monitoring plan.