

ERRATA SHEET AND IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING IPM TRAINING MANUALS AND INFORMATION SHEETS

BACKGROUND

Legislation was enacted in 1997 mandating that Maryland Public Schools (Grades K-12) develop and implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans for managing pests in public schools. The legislation also mandated schools to develop and implement methods for providing notification to parents and or guardians, as well as, school staff of pesticide use in school buildings. In 1999, this legislation was expanded to require public schools to develop and implement IPM plans and notification of pesticide use on school grounds.

In an effort to assist schools in the initial development and implementation of IPM plans and notification and posting formats, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) produced several manuals and contracted with the University of Maryland to write four additional manuals. These documents were intended for use by the schools for information and guidance. The documents were never intended to supplant the IPM and notification law and regulations but rather to facilitate implementation of the law. However, there are statements in these documents that incorrectly state the requirements of the law. The Department does not have the funds to republish the manuals and therefore has disseminated this errata sheet to all public school systems in Maryland to ensure that all schools are complying with the law.

Please note that the IPM in School manuals contain additional statements or information other than the examples listed below that do not uniformly incorporate and provide detail of the statutory mandate of Maryland's IPM and notification of pesticide use in public school buildings or on school grounds law and regulations. Therefore, if you are reading these manuals for training/guidance purposes or when performing pest control services, make sure you adhere to the definition of Integrated Pest Management found in Maryland's Integrated Pest Management and Notification of Pesticide Use in a Public School Building or on School Grounds law and regulations. For more information or questions, please contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation Section at 410-841-5710

ERRATA SHEET

PLEASE NOTE AND BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. The IPM in Schools manuals produced by MDA and the University of Maryland contain statements that incorrectly state that IPM is an alternative to pesticide application. An example of such a statement can be found in the Preface of the *Integrated Pest Management in Schools: IPM Training Manual*, where it states "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an alternative to pesticide use." This statement is incorrect. **IPM is not an alternative** in Maryland's Public Schools (Grades K-12); **it is the required method** of pest control under Maryland's IPM- in-Schools law and regulations."

2. The IPM in Schools manuals produced by MDA and the University of Maryland contain statements that fail to uniformly affirm the statutory mandate that pesticides be used only when “nontoxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted.” Examples of statements that fail to affirm the statutory mandate can be found 1) on page 6 of the manual entitled *Guidelines for Integrated Pest Management in Schools*, where it states “Pesticides are a component of an IPM program...” 2) on App. A, page 7 on the manual entitled *Contracting Guidelines for IPM Services in Maryland Public Schools* where it states “A broad definition of IPM is a pest control program that... incorporates different methods of pest control such as...and pesticides, when warranted...” and 3) in same manual on p. 17 where it states that “Pesticides play a limited, but important role in and IPM program.” These statements do not reflect the statutory mandate that pesticides may be used only when nontoxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted. In fact implementing an IPM program with a proper focus on pest prevention may result in a pest management program that does not include the use of any pesticides.
3. The IPM in Schools manuals produced by MDA and the University of Maryland contain some language that fails to provide the correct notice requirements mandated by the IPM-in-Schools law and regulations. An example of such a statement can be found on page 8 of the manuals entitled *Guideline for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools*, which states “A voluntary registry of individuals with medical problems or conditions who could be adversely affected by exposure to pesticides shall be maintained at the school health or administrative offices, as well as by the contact person.” **Prior notification is not a voluntary option for schools, nor is it limited to individuals with medical problems or conditions.** Both the law and regulations regarding IPM and Notification in public schools buildings and on school grounds **mandate notification** to all parents, guardians and school staff for elementary schools. Middle and High schools may choose to either notify all parents, guardians and staff members or establish a list of parents, guardians and staff members who wish to be notified of pesticide use. The law requires that all parents, guardians and staff be informed of the notification list so they can opt-in.
4. The IPM in Schools manuals produced by MDA and the University of Maryland contain confusing statements regarding a school’s legal obligations. An example of such a statement can be found on page 4 of the manual entitled *Contracting Guidelines for IPM Services in Maryland Public Schools*. The statement reads “In addition, the Governor’s Pesticide Advisory Council has issued the following policy statement regarding IPM in schools...” This statement references a Council that no longer exists and a policy that is not in law or regulation