

Pesticide Safety eNewsletter

Department of Health

December 2021, Edition 2

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Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Pesticide Safety eNewsletter for 2021.

This edition contains important information about transitional arrangements for the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 and automatic mutual recognition.

The newsletter is published by the Pesticide Safety Team in the Public Health Division of the Department of Health.

Feel free to forward the eNewsletter to anyone interested.

To receive the eNewsletter directly, provide your contact details to pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au or register on our new website.

Transitional arrangements ending December 2021

The [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#) adopted nationally harmonised minimum training and licencing requirements and included the removal of the Grandfather Clause exemption as well as an additional authorisation and associated units of competency for the control of timber pests.

The transitional period from 14 December 2019 to 31 December 2021 allowed operators time and opportunity to undergo a process of recognition of prior learning or undertake further training as necessary.

Any subsequent application to renew or obtain a pest control licence after this date (31/12/2021), will be subject to the harmonised minimum training and licencing requirements. At this time applicants will be required to demonstrate formally that they have obtained the prescribed units of competency.

Information regarding the units of competency required has been previously communicated through the June 2021 Pesticide Safety eNewsletter and recent email correspondence. Further details can be found on our website at [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#).

What to expect at your next renewal:

- Licences previously issued under the “Grandfather Clause” exemption will now be issued based on the units of competency completed and provided to the department
- Licences previously issued with “general authorisation” will now be listed as “general authorisation (excluding timber pests)” or “general authorisation (including timber pests)” depending on the units of competency completed and provided to the department
- Licences will continue to be issued electronically as PDF’s and sent via email.

PLEASE NOTE: Licence holders affected by the removal of the “Grandfather Clause” exemption have been individually notified of their specific competency unit requirements and timelines for compliance. Thank you to those who have already responded to this request. Details of ‘gap’ training providers and funding for older workers can be found in our June 2021 newsletter (<https://bit.ly/3uZMmPU>).

Automatic Mutual Recognition

Automatic mutual recognition (AMR) allows a person who is licensed or registered for an occupation in one jurisdiction to be considered registered to perform the same activities in another jurisdiction, without the need to go through further application processes or pay additional registration fees (conditions apply).

Victoria committed to entering the scheme on 1 July 2021, with NSW, ACT and NT also entering at this time. If you work in more than one of these states or territories, you may be able to use AMR to operate across jurisdictions. Other states have committed to entering the scheme in coming months.

For further information including eligibility criteria and mandatory notification please see our webpage: [Automatic mutual recognition \(health.vic.gov.au\)](#).

Be COVID-Safe

The Department of Health provides advice for the [business industry](#) and information and resources to help your business [prepare a COVID-Safe Plan](#). A COVID-Safe Plan supports a business to protect its staff, customers, visitors, and the community. It also prepares a business for a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the workplace.

Stay updated on Coronavirus COVID-19, for the latest updates, follow www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

It is important to be [WorkSafe](#) in preventing exposure in the workplace.

Preparing for our new licensing system

We are about to start work on replacing the software that we use for the licensing of pest control operators.

The new licensing system is designed to give licence holders more control over their licensing functions. It will allow you to maintain your own contact details, download copies of your licence, update your photo or request a new identification card at any time. It will also allow you to make payments by credit card or BPay.

With the introduction of this new system, we will move to a new style of licence in pdf form complimented by a return to printing and mailing your identification card.

Further details will be provided in the lead up to the changeover through our e-newsletter. We will be requesting applicants and licence holders register on the new licensing system with their personal email address similar to the way you shop on-line from home or deal with other government departments. Your unique personal email address will form an important part of the licensing system's security and must not be shared with anyone else in your company.

We are aiming to implement the new licensing system around the middle of next year.

Update your contact details

Whether you are an individual operator or business, it is important to ensure that we have your current contact details, so you don't miss out on important correspondence such as your licence renewal letter or this newsletter.

We have also moved to a 'paperless office' to improve our services, streamline processing times, and provide efficient communication, so please take the time to update your contact details by sending an email to the Pesticide Safety Team at pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au.

Our new email address

Our email address has changed to 'pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au'.

Please amend your records to ensure we receive the emails you send us and add us to your contact list as a trusted source to ensure you receive emails from us.

Our new website

Our website has recently undergone an update and has moved to a new address:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/pesticide-use-and-pest-control>

It has a new look and feel and is mobile friendly for browsing on location. The website is the easiest way to access information specifically developed to assist Victorian pest control operators comply with their legislative obligations including templates and a suite of reference material.

Take a look and share your feedback by emailing the Pesticide Safety Team at pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au.

Phone hours

Our phone hours are from 9.00am to 1.00pm, Monday to Friday. This allows our Registration and Licensing Team dedicated time in the afternoons to process licence applications and respond to email enquiries.

Contact us

Direct all enquiries to the Pesticide Safety Team:

Phone: 1300 767 469 (Monday to Friday 9am-1pm)

Fax: 1300 769 274

Email: pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au

Website: [Pesticide use and Pest Control](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/pesticide-use-and-pest-control)

Further information

For further information email pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au or visit our website at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/pesticide-use-and-pest-control>.

Feedback

Has this newsletter been useful to you? Please contact us by email at pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au to share your comments with us or make any suggestions as to what you would like to see in future newsletters.

Submission to the eNewsletter

The department will consider articles submitted for inclusion in this newsletter. These articles must be of a non-commercial nature and limited to 150 words. The department reserves the right of refusal and the right to edit articles submitted. The information and views expressed in such articles represent those of the author and do not in any way reflect the views of the department.