

Structural Pest Control Section – Division of Plant Industry

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Compliance Fact Sheet

State Inspections

This fact sheet is for structural pest control operators and technicians. It provides guidance on how to comply with the requirements of the *Georgia Structural Pest Control Act* and the *Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission* as they relate to inspections.

What do the regulations require?

The regulations require that companies provide access to all records and materials used to perform pest control services. Records requested as part of a complaint inspection are required to be submitted within 48 hours of the request. If a request for records involves a human health or environmental risk, those records must be provided immediately.

What do structural inspectors review during an inspection?

This can vary depending on the type of inspection, but generally speaking, structural inspectors review the following regulatory areas:

- Pesticide use
- Pesticide use record-keeping
- Pest control contracts
- Pesticide storage and disposal
- Service vehicles
- Application equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Licensing requirements

If the inspection is associated with a complaint, the inspector may also conduct an inspection of the structure to ensure that pesticides were applied as directed on the label and labeling, and that the application meets the minimum treatment standards.

How long are records required to be maintained?

All records must be retained for a minimum of two years. WDO contracts and supporting documentation must be maintained during the entire contract period and for two years following the expiration of the contract.

Compliance Assistance

Compliance assistance is typically offered during a routine company inspection. This is an opportunity for the regulated community to ask questions or get clarifications. This assistance is often focused on new regulations, policy or label restrictions. These efforts support the Department's philosophy to *educate as we regulate*.

Enforcement

It is important to remember that very few inspections lead to enforcement actions which can include fines and/or license revocations, but these actions will always be a part of any regulatory program. In general, when non-compliance is documented during an inspection, a letter will be issued to the DCO of the company outlining the issues found at the time of the inspection. Companies are encouraged to submit updated contracts or pesticide use records when those items need to be revised to achieve compliance.

Inspection Notices

Notice of Inspection: Issued prior to beginning any inspection and when requesting records. When used for records request, a response is required within 48 hours.

Field Advisory Notice of Compliance: Issued when no apparent violations are documented during a routine inspection. No response to the Department is necessary.

Field Advisory Notice of Violation: Issued when apparent violations are documented during a routine inspection. Correction of all violations is required; however, no formal response to the Department is necessary.

Warning Letter: Issued when record-keeping violations are documented during a complaint inspection. Correction of all violations is required; however, no formal response to the Department is necessary.

Inspection and WDO Corrective Action Report: Issued when apparent deviations from the minimum adequate treatment standards are documented during an inspection. Correction of treatment is required and the signed corrective action and all associated documents are to be submitted within 30 days.

Administrative Actions

If the violations documented during an inspection warrant it, the case will be referred to the Department's Legal Division for an administrative action. Administrative actions taken to address violations can carry a penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation, and are issued in an Administrative Order. Once an Administrative Order has been issued, the company has ten (10) days to request a hearing. Most cases are settled at a settlement conference prior to the hearing, but if a settlement cannot be reached, a formal hearing will be scheduled and the Department's Legal Division will proceed with the administrative process.

Online Resources

- [Laws & Regulations](#)
- [Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission](#)

Also listed at www.agr.georgia.gov/structural

If further assistance is needed, contact the Structural Pest Control Office or an inspector at (404) 656-3641 or inspection@agr.georgia.gov

The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission and Georgia Department of Agriculture have issued this guidance document to help pest management professionals comply with the Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act. This document does not include all regulatory requirements. Refer to the complete Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act for all rules and regulations.

SPCS: 17-03 State Inspections
Issued: 07-01-17
Revised: 10-10-17