

**The use of insecticides and rodenticides
and the certificate of qualification from the ministère du Développement durable,
de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)**

Many farm producers who use rodenticides and insecticides in their buildings wonder whether they need a certificate of qualification from the MDDEP. For this reason, it is important to clarify when the certificate is required.

A system of permits and certificates was implemented in 1987, under the *Pesticides Act* and the *Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides*, to ensure that sellers and users of pesticides presenting the highest risk are qualified. The permit is for companies and the certificate is for individuals who use or offer to use pesticides. The permit is valid for a period of three years, and the certificate for a period of five years. Up until 2005, only farm producers using Class 2 pesticides and certain fumigants had to be certified.

The *Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides* was amended in 2003 to extend certification to all farm producers using pesticides. Under the Regulation, farm producers with a farm producer's card must hold a certificate of qualification to use or supervise work involving the use of Class 3 pesticides. This requirement extends over a three-year period: April 3, 2005, for farmers whose last name starts with the letters A to D, April 3, 2006, for farmers whose last name starts with the letters E to L and April 3, 2007, for the letters M to Z. "Farm producer" refers to the farmer, a person authorized to act on his behalf (e.g. family member) or an employee.

Québec's classification has five classes of pesticides, according to levels of risk for the environment and human health. Classes 1 and 2 designate pesticides for restricted use, Class 3 are pesticides for commercial or agricultural use, and Classes 4 and 5 are pesticides for domestic use. Class 1 has the highest level of risk and Class 5 the lowest level. Pesticides usually used by farmers are Class 3, that is, those for which the certificate is now required. Note that approved Class 3 biopesticides are also subject to certification. However, no certificate is required for domestic use products, i.e., those in Classes 4 or 5.

"Pesticides" includes herbicides for killing weeds, insecticides and fungicides used to control insects and field and greenhouse crop diseases. It also designates rodenticides used to kill rodents, insecticides used to control insects in farm buildings, and insecticides used on animals. Many of these products may be sold as Class 3 or Class 4. For example, a wide range of domestic rodenticides is available for controlling these pests. Note, also, that the use of disinfectants (products that destroy or render microorganisms on inanimate surfaces inactive) does not require certification.

It must be remembered that it is the class of product, among other things, that determines whether a certificate of qualification is required and that since 2005 only pesticides used for domestic purposes do not require certification. The type of activity for

which the product is used then determines the certificate category. Producers must therefore determine if a certificate is required or not depending on the situation.

To obtain a certificate of qualification, if one is needed, farm producers and farmers must take a test to assess their knowledge of the health and environmental risks pesticides represent, integrated pest control and best practices for pesticides. Training is not compulsory but does provide the knowledge needed to pass the test. Several tests available under secondary, college and university programs also qualify for obtaining a certificate.

Distance training is offered by the *Société de formation à distance des commissions scolaires du Québec* (SOFAD). More information on training or tests offered by the SOFAD may be obtained from the *Services sur mesure* at (514) 529-2801 for the Montreal region, or toll free at 1-866-840-9346 for elsewhere in Québec; or by e-mail at: info.surmesure@sofad.qc.ca.

Training is also available through the *Collectifs régionaux en formation agricole*. Information on courses offered by the *Collectifs régionaux en formation agricole* is available on their Web site at: <http://www.formationagricole.com> or through a farm training respondent for your area.

For more information on current legislation concerning pesticides used for agricultural purposes, and particularly for certification, contact your regional office of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (see the blue pages in the phone book) or the Ministère's information centre at 1-800-561-1616 (toll free); or by e-mail at: info@mddep.gouv.qc.ca.

Mr. Louison Fortin
Service des pesticides
Ministère du Développement durable de
l'Environnement et des Parcs
2006-03-20