THE REPORT OF TH

North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Structural Pest Control Bulletin

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Steve Troxler, Commissioner

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Certification & Training Plan for N.C. Update and Upcoming Rules Revisions

Fall/Winter 2024

Beginning in 2017, EPA required all States with Cooperative Agreements to revise their existing Certification & Training (C&T) Plans. Our Division began working with our Region 4 EPA staff and legal staff in Atlanta on revisions to our C&T Plan before eventually sending the revised plan to EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C. During this time period, our Division worked closely with the N.C. Pest Management Association (NCPMA) on proposed Rules Revisions associated with the revised C&T Plan along with input and approval from the Structural Pest Control Committee (SPCC). Our Division's revised C&T Plan for North Carolina received final approval from EPA in July 2023 and subsequently the revised rulemaking process began......

The N.C. Rules Review Commission (RRC) public comment period for these revised Structural Pest Control Rules recently ended and the Rules were presented by Certification & Licensing Manager John Feagans at the November 19th, SPCC meeting. The SPCC voted to approve these revised Rules, so the final part of the rulemaking process will now begin. Updates regarding these Rules Revisions will be posted on our website and the Division will be providing Outreach/Training presentations beginning in 2025 throughout N.C. Also, there will be a presentation regarding these upcoming Rules revisions at the NCPMA 2025 PCT School which is being held Jan. 27-30, 2025, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham. Please stay tuned for more information regarding these revisions beginning in 2025!

Current Structural Pest Control Committee

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2025 NCPMA Pest Control Technician's School

The 75rd Annual North Carolina Pest Control Technicians School is being held January 27nd - January 30th hosted by the North Carolina Pest Management Association (NCPMA). Approximately 1000 Structural Pest Control industry members made their way to the Sheraton Imperial in Durham for last year's event and NCPMA expects even more this year. Come meet fellow industry representatives, learn about new pest control technologies being developed, and earn some Continuing Certification Units towards your credential requirements. Information about the 2025 PCT School can be found at: <u>2025 Pest Control Technician's School</u>. Please visit the NCDA&CS booth to discuss with our staff any questions that you may have or to just say "Hello".

<u>Note:</u> Please make sure to check your transcript prior to attending PCT School to determine your CCU obligations. <u>NCDA&CS Structural Credential Transcript Search Information</u>

Inspector's Corner (by Dylan Teper)

Termite Treatments and Waiver of Minimum Requirements — Misconceptions and Common Issues

The "North Carolina Official Waiver of Minimum Requirements for the Control of Subterranean Termites in Existing Structures" is a form used often by the structural pest control industry; but there seem to be many misconceptions or issues that commonly arise in the field. First, it is important that PMPs understand what the NC Waiver form is actually meant to do. In 02 NCAC 34 .0102 (57), the "Waiver" is defined as: "a form provided by the Committee pursuant to 02 NCAC 34 .0603 which will, when completed correctly, permit the licensee to deviate from or omit one or more of the minimum treatment methods and procedures for structural pests which are set forth in the Committee rules, definitions, and requirements."

This definition segues into an issue, that has become more common in the digital age, and is that companies are changing or adding to the Waiver form when uploading into pest control software or PDF. This is not allowed as the Waiver form is an official "state" form and cannot be changed or adulterated. For example, the Waiver form cannot indicate the company name at the top in letterhead when shown or printed. This makes the Waiver form appear to be from the company and not prescribed by the Structural Pest Control Committee. Other mistakes observed are the definitions of items being changed, when the waiver form is uploaded digitally, such as item B's definition stating "foam boards" instead of the correct "form boards." Another misconception that is commonly dealt with is PMPs assuming there are certain termiticides, such as bait stations, that are waiver exempt. This may not be accurate.

Standalone post-construction bait station installations could require a Waiver. This is because items A through E on a Waiver apply to all standalone post-construction termite treatments. For example, if a licensed structural pest control company chooses to use bait stations around a structure but inside the crawlspace there is cellulose debris that will not be removed, then the Waiver is required in this instance and item B should be checked and a description of the item waived should be given. Such as "will not remove cellulose debris in the crawlspace."

Another issue observed in the field by inspectors is that Waivers are not being filled out correctly. Common issues found are: Waivers missing description of item waived and location, missing signatures from homeowner, blank Waivers that are signed by the homeowner, Waivers filled out and dated after the treatment was performed, and description of items waived not detailed enough. These are all common deviations issued in the field by inspectors that are easily avoidable. The PMP should take their time explaining the Waiver to the homeowner and inspect the property thoroughly. A Waiver should be signed by the homeowner before treatment starts. Any deviation from the minimum requirements for the control or prevention of subterranean termites shall be fully explained, in writing, prior to any work being done, on the waiver form prescribed by the Structural Pest Control Committee. Any item waived should have a detailed description. It should also answer the question "where and what is not being completed to minimum treatment requirements?" That brings up another big misconception seen in the field. Waivers waive N.C. minimum treatments requirements, **NOT** the label itself. A PMP cannot utilize the Waiver and state they are not doing something that is required by the label itself.

In conclusion, Waivers are an essential tool for all structural pest control companies who complete post-construction termite treatments as part of their business model. PMPs should seek formal Waiver training (such as N.C. State's Termite Tech Program and NCPMA training classes) or contact your local NCDA&CS inspector for additional training opportunities or guidance.

SPC Personnel Changes

 <u>Dean Wade</u> — In April 2024, Dean decided to diversify his knowledge of pesticide applications and regulatory understanding for agriculture and ornamental/turf treatments by transitioning into the Pesticide Section. We appreciate his time and efforts in assisting consumers and the Structural Pest Control Industry as a Structural Pest Control Inspector. He provided valuable educational opportunities to all. We wish him well in his new role and future endeavors.

The More You Know

- ⇒ Per GS 106-65.31(b1) "Registration. Within 75 days after the hiring of an employee who is either an estimator, salesman, serviceman, or solicitor, the licensee shall apply to the Division for the issuance of an identification card for such employee." We are making it a point of emphasis to ensure all persons affected by this Act have the required credentials.
- ⇒ We have begun the process of identifying the additional Registered Technician Training Program requirements needed to fulfill the 2017 EPA C&T Rules revision. Once developed, these mandatory elements will be included in the NCDA&CS led RT School AND the RT Equivalency programs.
- ⇒ Our Field Inspectors, Managers, & Administrative team have a variety of on-demand training presentations available for your company. Examples include: WDIR-100, Waiver, Service Vehicle Inspections/Safety, & Pre-Construction Treatments. We can also create training for your specific needs. Contact a member of the NCDA&CS Structural Pest Control Section staff for additional details.
- ⇒ Per NC structural statutes, written notification to the Division must be made within 10 days for the following changes:
 - Business Address Change
 Company Name Change
- Employer Change
- Telephone # Change
 Sale of Business
 Closure of Business
- ⇒ We would like to remind all PMPs that providing a current home address is a requirement. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out forms to collect this information. Please watch for further instructions and ensure your details are up to date.
- ⇒ We periodically update documents to better capture necessary information; therefore the Division requires current versions of forms, applications, etc. to be the only forms submitted. Please ensure you are using the correct form to prevent any delay in processing your requests.

N.C. Structural Pest Control Committee Announces Case Settlements

RALEIGH – The N.C. Structural Pest Control Committee approved settlement agreements for two cases in Craven county at the *April 3, 2024* meeting held in Raleigh, at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center. Following are the agreements:

- Paul Lambert, a structural pest control licensee of Canady's Termite and Pest Control in Princeton, agreed to pay \$1,000 for failing to supervise the structural pest control performed out of his home office or any branch office under licensee's management and issuing an incomplete or inaccurate Wood Destroying Insect Identification Report.
- Joey Pierce, who works for Canady's Termite and Pest Control in Princeton, agreed to pay \$800 for issuing an incomplete or inaccurate Wood Destroying Insect Identification Report.



N.C. Structural Pest Control Committee Announces Case Settlements

RALEIGH – The N.C. Structural Pest Control Committee approved settlement agreements for four cases in Gaston and Wake counties at the *November 19, 2024* meeting held in Raleigh, at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center. Following are the agreements:

- Devie Goforth, a structural pest control licensee for Home Spectors Termite & Pest in Lowell, agreed to pay \$1,000 for failure to maintain financial responsibility in the form of a general liability insurance policy which covers operations in progress and completed operations and engaging in or supervising structural pest control work as a manager without having a valid license.
- Devie Goforth, a structural pest control licensee for Home Spectors Termite & Pest in Lowell, agreed to pay \$2,000 for failure to adequately control, direct, and supervise the structural pest control activities of their office, failure to maintain structural pest control records, and failure to execute and furnish written treatment proposal to property owner.
- Adam Song, a structural pest control licensee for Adam's Pest Solutions in Cary, agreed to pay \$1,200 for failure to adequately control, direct, and supervise the structural pest control activities of their office.
- Byron Bass, who works for Adam's Pest Solutions in Cary, agreed to pay \$1,200 for using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its label.

Upcoming RT Schools and Exams

NCDA&CS Registered Technician School

Tues Dec 3, 2024 – RT School Cumberland Co Cooperative Extension Center	Tues Dec 17, 2024 – RT School NCDA&CS STASC Complex	
Tues Jan 8, 2025 – RT School NCDA&CS STASC Complex	Tues Jan 12, 2025 – RT School Burke Co Cooperative Extension Center	Wed Jan 21, 2025 – RT School New Hanover Co Cooperative Extension Center
Tues Feb 11, 2025 – RT School Pitt Co Cooperative Extension Center	Wed Feb 12, 2025 – RT School NCDA&CS STASC Complex	Tues Feb 18, 20245 – RT School Guilford Co Cooperative Extension Center

License & Certification Exam Registration

Mon Dec 2, 2024 – Cert Exam only Union Co Cooperative Extension Center	Thur Dec 5, 2024 – License & Cert Exams NCDA&CS STASC Complex	Wed Dec 11, 2024 – Cert Exam only New Hanover Co Cooperative Extension Center
Thur Jan 2, 2025 – License & Cert Exams	Thur Jan 7, 2025 – Cert Exam only	Tues Jan 14, 2025 – Cert Exam
NCDA&CS STASC Complex	Gaston Co Cooperative Extension Center	Pitt Co Cooperative Extension Center
Thur Jan 30, 2025 – Cert Exam PCT School —7:00am Start		
Wed Feb 5, 2025 – Cert Exam only	Thur Feb 6, 2025 – License & Cert Exams	Wed Feb 19, 2025 – Cert Exam only
Cabarrus Co Cooperative Extension Center	NCDA&CS STASC Complex	Cumberland Co Cooperative Extension Center

Locations

Burke County Cooperative Extension Center 130 Ammons Dr Morganton, NC, 28655

Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension Center 715 Cabarrus Ave Concord, NC, 28027

Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Center 301 E Mountain Dr Fayetteville, NC 28306

Gaston County Cooperative Extension Center 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy Dallas, NC 28034

Guilford County Cooperative Extension Center 3309 Burlington Rd Greensboro, NC 27405

New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Center 6206 Oleander Dr Wilmington, NC 28403 NCDA&CS STASC Complex 4400 Reedy Creek Rd Raleigh, NC 27607

Pitt County Cooperative Extension Center 403 Government Circle, Suite 2 Greenville, NC 27834

Union County Cooperative Extension Center 3230-D Presson Rd Monroe, NC 28112

