

# Ontario Allied Golf Associations

## UPDATE ON THE COSMETIC PESTICIDE BAN

**March 30, 2009**

Bill 64 received Royal Assent in July 2008. The resulting Cosmetic Pesticide Ban allows golf courses to continue to use pesticides, but only if they comply with new stricter conditions. These conditions are articulated in Ontario Regulation 63/09 that was released March 4th and goes into effect Earth Day April 22, 2009. Here are the key components:

### **IPM Accreditation**

Golf courses will have until April 22, 2012 to become **fully** accredited. Achieving full accreditation can require up to three years. Therefore, clubs not currently registered in the process should register as soon as possible to meet the 2012 deadline. For new golf courses that are currently under construction or in the planning stages, the clock starts ticking from the first day that pesticides are applied to the property. New golf courses must become fully accredited within two years from that date.

IPM Accreditation is a two part process. Individuals must pass an examination proving their knowledge of IPM. The person passing the exam is considered an IPM Agent and is issued an IPM Agent number. This number travels with the individual regardless of their place of employment. To keep their agent status, an annual fee must be paid and 8 continuing education credits (CEC) must be achieved during each year following the year they successfully passed the exam. If the agent is unable to obtain 8 CECs by Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year, they have the option to write the exam again to maintain their IPM Agent status.

All golf facilities wishing to use pesticides must register in the IPM Accreditation program and pay an annual fee. They must also identify the IPM Agent with the agent's number responsible for that facility on the annual registration. Daily scouting reports, weather records, sprayer calibration and pesticide usage reports must be submitted for an annual desk (written) audit. Third party certified environmental management system auditors perform all the audits. Every third year, an on-site audit is performed. The golf facility is considered fully accredited upon successful completion of the on-site audit.

Should the IPM Agent leave a facility, he/she must be replaced by another agent within 3 months or by the beginning of the playing season if the position is vacated in the fall or winter.

### **Annual Report**

The new regulation requires all golf courses to prepare an annual pesticide usage report starting in 2010, at the latest. This report will document all pesticide active ingredients used on the golf course from Jan.1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> for each year. This report must be prepared before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.



The format of the annual usage report will be provided as part of the IPM Accreditation annual desk audit documentation starting in 2009. It will include the following elements:

- quantity in kilograms of each pesticide ingredient used;
- how this quantity may have varied from previous years;
- how being IPM Accredited has helped to reduce pesticide use and how will it reduce pesticide use going forward;
- a map of the golf course property showing all areas where pesticides have been applied;
- contact information for the club and registered IPM Agent; and
- any other information that the ministry may determine relevant to the use of pesticides and with respect to which the Director has notified the owner or operator.

## Public Inspection of the Annual Report

The annual pesticide usage report must be made available to the public starting in 2012. The most recent annual report must be posted in a prominent place in a building accessible to the public or the membership and guests in the case of a private club. A copy of the report must be provided to any person free of charge when requested during regular business hours. This report will also be posted on the IPM-PHC Council website.

Each annual report must be made available for inspection before Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. The report must be posted in a prominent place in a publicly accessible building at least 15 days before the report is made available for inspection. At this time, a notice must be sent to all properties within 100 m of the golf course and published in a local newspaper that provides the name and address of the golf course, name and phone number of the owner or representative of the owner of the golf course, and the date, time and place at which the annual report will be presented.

All reports must be kept in a publicly accessible building, as described above, for a period of at least five years. A copy of the reports must be given immediately to the MOE or inspector upon request and also be provided free of charge within 7 days to any person requesting a copy.

## COMPLIANCE TIMELINE

- 2009 - Golf facilities register in the IPM Accreditation Program and start documenting all pesticide usage as per IPM Accreditation program.  
- Golf course personnel study and take exam to become IPM Agents for the golf course
- 2010 - First annual pesticide usage report must be prepared using Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2010 data.
- 2011 - 2010 annual report must be finalized by June 30, 2011.  
- 2010 annual report is posted on golf course property in prominent public location.
- 2012 - 2011 annual report posted in prominent public location and 2010 report still available upon request.  
- Annual reports become publicly accessible on the IPM-PHC Council of Canada website.  
- Notice sent to neighboring properties within 100 m of the golf course by Nov 15, 2012.  
- Notice posted in local newspaper announcing availability of annual report and the date when the golf course will present the report to the public.  
- Annual report made available for inspection by Dec. 1, 2012 at the latest.

More detailed information will be forwarded over the next few months.

