



THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRIES PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL

Overview

It is a well-known fact that in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock

Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947), that:

- No person shall for reward or in the course of any industry, trade or business - use any agricultural remedy unless he/she is a pest control operator registered in terms of this Act or otherwise than in the presence and under the supervision of a pest control operator so registered.
- Any pest control operator having the prescribed qualifications or is otherwise, to such extent as may be determined by the Registrar, skilled in the use of agricultural remedies, and that it is not contrary to the public interest shall be registered.

It is further well known that a registered pest control operator must re-register every 3 years. However, what is lesser known fact among the sector is that in terms of Pest Control Operator (PCO) Regulations the renewal of a pest control registration requires that the operator among other things, must provide:

- proof of continual education training and/or information obtained with regard to usage, safety and latest development on the regulatory matters of agricultural remedies within the current registration cycle;
- copies of records prescribed in regulation 131 such records must be for the last six months period before the renewal period.
- and more

The South African Pest Control Association (SAPCA) and its membership, have acknowledged that irrespective of the regulations that are in place to protect the sector, that in the last decade there has been an erosion and decline in value proposition of a conforming Pest Control Operator. Endless debates regarding the many factors that have contributed and continue to contribute to the erosion/decline of the sector can be bad. However, SAPCA has taken the position while the debates may continue, positive change is needed for best interest of the sector as a whole.

It is with this in mind, in consultation of the DAFF and with achieving the same objectives of upliftment and transformation of the pest control sector and in turn, protection of public interest and health and safety, **we are pleased to announce the establishment of the Pest Control Industries Professional Council.**

The establishment and the implementation of PCIPC will result in national professional register in line with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Professional Bodies requirements which would encompass among others things continuous professional development, self-regulatory and accountability environment.

The Vision of the PCIPC

To pro actively work and promote pest control practices in an open forum free of any political or commercial agenda, so as to protect the health and safety and well-being of the South African public, and to protect the integrity of the South African Pest Control Environment and Practices.

This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To effectively administer a live and updated pest control registration system in South Africa;
- To promote and encourage the upliftment of the training and skills development at all levels in the pest control sector;
- Promote fairness and equal treatment of all individuals, companies and organisations, irrespective of their race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or creed;
- Continuously strive to improve the demographic representation of the registrar;
- To promote, monitor and maintain continuous professional development expertise, among the registrar;
- To work with the community to address concerns and complaints about work carried out by the registrar;
- To monitor conformance to the technical application of agricultural remedies and reporting, through professional industry pest control auditors and thereby assisting the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries any other and central and or local government bodies with the enforcement of application of agricultural remedies conformance;

- To promote pest control practices that protect the environment, the health and safety of consumers, and the integrity and sustainability of the South African Pest Control Environment and Practices through the application and enforcement of South African Pest Control Operator Regulations;
- To actively promote and support a consistent and effective regulatory environment throughout South Africa;
- To regularly consult and liaise with the pest control industry and with authorized bodies related to the industry.

While the proposed objectives of the PCIPC encompass numerous activities, the main three core services are to be strongly driven by the PCIPC at the onset, which will in turn directly and indirectly drive the objectives of the PCIPC Enterprise:

- Management of a Live online Registration data base
- Management of Continuous Education Training
- Monitoring and the Enforcement of the provisions of the Act and of the applicable codes of practice for the use of agricultural remedies through the issuing of the Certificate of Conformance

Registration

While PCIPC registration will align with that of the Regulations, registration with PCIPC would be different to that of DAFF. The intention long term will be for the PCIPC registration to integrate into the DAFF registration system making a seamless process for the sector.

It must be noted one of the significant differences with PCIPC registration is that it will be a live online, cloud based system and that re-registration will be every 12 months and not that of the 3 years as per DAFF.

PCIPC cards will also be produced for each Pest Control Operator.



Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The regulations are clear that CPD is required by a PCO upon re-registration with DAFF.

Continuous Education Training more commonly known as Continuing Professional Development (CPD), refers to the process of tracking and documenting the skills, knowledge and experience that a person gains both formally and informally as they work, beyond any initial formal qualification or training. Any CPD process is there to simply help and manage a person's own development on an ongoing basis. It's simply a function to help record, review and guide, on what is learnt and should be learnt.

The reality is that CPD is here to stay and PCIPC has acknowledged that it is a major step for the industry. It further acknowledges that any CPD program should not be complex and should be a simple by-product of what a person does naturally i.e. we learn and develop on a daily basis in some form or another. The CPD program should not be seen as a burden and not be limited to the traditional "classroom" or "book learning" activities. Development / improvement of one's self as a person and within one's work environment should be included.

It is with this in mind that the PCO CPD will be divided into the following stream:

Stream 1: Developmental Activities:

Developmental CPD Activities are activities that are related to structured educational and training, meetings, seminars, webinars etc.

Stream 2: Work-based Activities:

Work-based CPD Activities are activities that are related to any work-based related pest control activity. These activities may include but are not limited to, learner mentorship programs, issuing of certificates of conformance, etc.

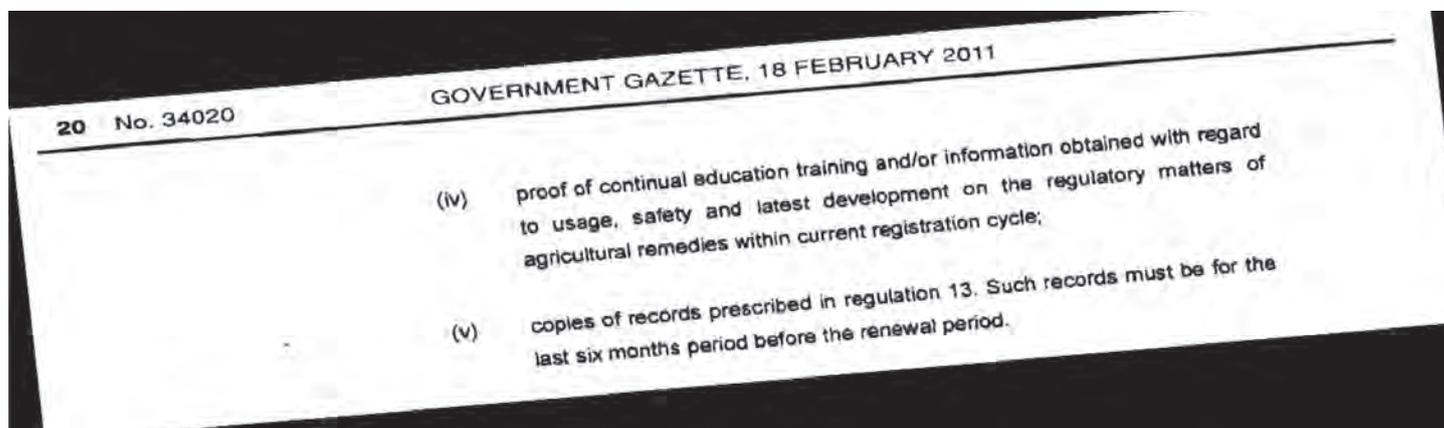
Stream 3: Individual Activities:

As the name implies individual CPD Activities are activities that are related to activities under taken by each relevant person. These activities may include but are not limited to serving on a voluntary association related to the pest control sector, writing a technical article, part-time lecturing/training, community service etc.

The number of CPD credits that will need to be obtained in one-year cycle of a PCIPC registration is 25 Credits (Points) or 75 Points over a 3-year period in the case of the DAFF registration.

PCIPC registered individuals may obtain all credits from only one stream of activities however for a balanced development it is encouraged that PCO professionals to participate in more than one stream to ensure credits are earned from a combination of different activities.

Submission of one's CPD credits will take place through a seamless on-line process.



PCIPC Certificate of Compliance (Reporting)

While most regulations are very clear on their intention, the challenges and the short-comings are in most cases the **IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING** and **ENFORCING** of the regulations. There are numerous factors that may contribute to one not being able to implement, monitor or enforce a regulation, however, we can be assured that if none of this is pro actively done, or seem to be done, then the respective regulations are not worth the paper they are written on.

To sustain the ordered structure of good environmental governance, and to ensure the necessary conformance, conformance assurance and enforcements are necessary.

With this said the PCIPC will be introducing a form of Certificate of Conformance (COC). so as to monitor conformance to the technical application of agricultural remedies and reporting. The introduction will only be taking place towards the latter of 2019.

The premise of the COC is that conformance is driven bottom up and not the conventional top down approach i.e. self-regulation by the industry and the PCO working in it.

Each COC which may be in either a paper or electronic format and uniquely numbered, will be issued to the owner of the premises by PCIPC registered PCO. The respective COC which is linked to a respective registered PCO, and denotes that application of the agricultural remedies was done under the supervision of the licensed PCO, was done in accordance with the provisions of the act/regulations and the applicable codes of practice for the use of agricultural remedies. In issuing the COC the registered PCO is acknowledging on a continuous basis that as a skilled and competent PCO, they will take accountability and responsibility for their work i.e. the application.

Post the issuing of the COC, the PCIPC will do a random selection on the COC's issued and undertake a proactive audit of the work that was done in accordance with the provisions of the act/regulations, and the applicable codes of practice for the use of agricultural remedies. If the audit finds that the registered PCO has transgressed in one form or another, corrective action will be given to the registered PCO for them to undertake.

Governance of PCIPC

PCIPC is not owned or governed by SAPCA. The PCIPC was established under the auspices of SAPCA as a separate company and registered as a legal Not for Profit entity.

The PCIPC is total independent from any association, organisation or body, and the ownership of the PCIPC resides with Industry, governed by an elected board and its own Constitution.

The Way forward

PCIPC anticipates that it will start receiving registration by end of April 2019. Details to this will be communicated during the course of April 2019.