

TO: Registered Agricultural Pest Control Businesses

FROM: San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFIED APPLICATOR LICENSE CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT COVID-19 CONTROL

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in California in response to COVID-19. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has received questions about licensing and certification requirements applicable to the professional application of antimicrobial pesticides for sanitization services performed for COVID-19 control. An Agricultural Pest Control Business (PCB) must always have a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) holder to supervise pest control services. Generally, where a PCB performs sanitization services, the QAL must also be certified in Category A, P, or K. Category A allows PCBs to perform sanitization or disinfection in residential, industrial, or institutional (RII) use settings such as hospitals, schools, or prisons; Category P allows PCBs to perform microbial pest control in RII use settings; and Category K allows PCBs to perform health related pest control services under a government-sponsored program.

In order to assist the citizens of San Diego to adequately obtain sanitation services, under DPR approval, the County of San Diego Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) is implementing enforcement discretion to allow registered Agricultural PCBs in San Diego county to perform sanitization services for the control of COVID-19 if they have a designated individual at each business location with a valid QAL in *any* category. This exemption will end July 2, 2020.

There are conditions that must be met before your company performs pest control outside your currently registered QAL category for sanitization services performed for COVID-19 control.

- The PCB without the specific QAL license category must notify the CAC in writing with an explanation for why the sanitization work is necessary.
- Examples of necessary work may include situations in which the PCB is the only licensee registered to do business in the county or where other properly licensed PCBs are unavailable to perform COVID-19-related work.
- The QAL holder ensures that all applicators applying antimicrobials are properly trained and are in strict compliance with label directions and all other applicable laws and regulations.

If you have questions or are interested in participating in this temporary category exemption, contact the Pesticide Regulation Program at (858) 694-8980 or PRP.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov.

County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures
Pesticide Regulation Program