
SENATE BILL 6252

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Morton and T. Sheldon; by request of Department of Agriculture

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to structural pest inspections; amending RCW
2 15.58.030, 15.58.150, 15.58.233, 15.58.040, and 15.58.210; adding new
3 sections to chapter 15.58 RCW; prescribing penalties; providing an
4 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 15.58.030 and 1992 c 170 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 As used in this chapter the words and phrases defined in this
9 section shall have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly
10 requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Active ingredient" means any ingredient which will prevent,
12 destroy, repel, control, or mitigate pests, or which will act as a
13 plant regulator, defoliant, desiccant, or spray adjuvant.

14 (2) "Antidote" means the most practical immediate treatment in case
15 of poisoning and includes first aid treatment.

16 (3) "Arthropod" means any invertebrate animal that belongs to the
17 phylum arthropoda, which in addition to insects, includes allied
18 classes whose members are wingless and usually have more than six legs;
19 for example, spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes, and isopod crustaceans.

1 (4) "Defoliant" means any substance or mixture of substances
2 intended to cause the leaves or foliage to drop from a plant with or
3 without causing abscission.

4 (5) "Department" means the Washington state department of
5 agriculture.

6 (6) "Desiccant" means any substance or mixture of substances
7 intended to artificially accelerate the drying of plant tissues.

8 (7) "Device" means any instrument or contrivance intended to trap,
9 destroy, control, repel, or mitigate pests, or to destroy, control,
10 repel or mitigate fungi, nematodes, or such other pests, as may be
11 designated by the director, but not including equipment used for the
12 application of pesticides when sold separately from the pesticides.

13 (8) "Director" means the director of the department or a duly
14 authorized representative.

15 (9) "Distribute" means to offer for sale, hold for sale, sell,
16 barter, or supply pesticides in this state.

17 (10) "EPA" means the United States environmental protection agency.

18 (11) "EPA restricted use pesticide" means any pesticide with
19 restricted uses as classified for restricted use by the administrator,
20 EPA.

21 (12) "FIFRA" means the federal insecticide, fungicide, and
22 rodenticide act as amended (61 Stat. 163, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.).

23 (13) "Fungi" means all nonchlorophyll-bearing thallophytes (all
24 nonchlorophyll-bearing plants of a lower order than mosses and
25 liverworts); for example, rusts, smuts, mildews, molds, yeasts, and
26 bacteria, except those on or in living persons or other animals.

27 (14) "Fungicide" means any substance or mixture of substances
28 intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any fungi.

29 (15) "Herbicide" means any substance or mixture of substances
30 intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any weed.

31 (16) "Inert ingredient" means an ingredient which is not an active
32 ingredient.

33 (17) "Ingredient statement" means a statement of the name and
34 percentage of each active ingredient together with the total percentage
35 of the inert ingredients in the pesticide, and when the pesticide
36 contains arsenic in any form, the ingredient statement shall also
37 include percentages of total and water soluble arsenic, each calculated
38 as elemental arsenic. In the case of a spray adjuvant the ingredient
39 statement need contain only the names of the principal functioning

1 agents and the total percentage of the constituents ineffective as
2 spray adjuvants. If more than three functioning agents are present,
3 only the three principal ones need be named.

4 (18) "Insect" means any of the numerous small invertebrate animals
5 whose bodies are more or less obviously segmented, and which for the
6 most part belong to the class insecta, comprising six-legged, usually
7 winged forms, for example, beetles, bugs, bees, flies, and to other
8 allied classes of arthropods whose members are wingless and usually
9 have more than six legs, for example, spiders, mites, ticks,
10 centipedes, and isopod crustaceans.

11 (19) "Insecticide" means any substance or mixture of substances
12 intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any insects which may
13 be present in any environment whatsoever.

14 (20) "Inspection control number" means a number obtained from the
15 department that is recorded on wood destroying organism inspection
16 reports issued by a structural pest inspector in conjunction with the
17 transfer, exchange, or refinancing of any structure.

18 (21) "Label" means the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or
19 attached to, the pesticide, device, or immediate container, and the
20 outside container or wrapper of the retail package.

21 (~~(21)~~) (22) "Labeling" means all labels and other written,
22 printed, or graphic matter:

23 (a) Upon the pesticide, device, or any of its containers or
24 wrappers;

25 (b) Accompanying the pesticide, or referring to it in any other
26 media used to disseminate information to the public; and

27 (c) To which reference is made on the label or in literature
28 accompanying or referring to the pesticide or device except when
29 accurate nonmisleading reference is made to current official
30 publications of the department, United States departments of
31 agriculture; interior; education; health and human services; state
32 agricultural colleges; and other similar federal or state institutions
33 or agencies authorized by law to conduct research in the field of
34 pesticides.

35 (~~(22)~~) (23) "Land" means all land and water areas, including
36 airspace and all plants, animals, structures, buildings, devices and
37 contrivances, appurtenant thereto or situated thereon, fixed or mobile,
38 including any used for transportation.

1 (~~(23)~~) (24) "Master license system" means the mechanism
2 established by chapter 19.02 RCW by which master licenses, endorsed for
3 individual state-issued licenses, are issued and renewed using a master
4 application and a master license expiration date common to each
5 renewable license endorsement.

6 (~~(24)~~) (25) "Nematocide" means any substance or mixture of
7 substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate nematodes.

8 (~~(25)~~) (26) "Nematode" means any invertebrate animal of the
9 phylum nemathelminthes and class nematoda, that is, unsegmented round
10 worms with elongated, fusiform, or saclike bodies covered with cuticle,
11 and inhabiting soil, water, plants or plant parts, may also be called
12 nemas or eelworms.

13 (~~(26)~~) (27) "Person" means any individual, partnership,
14 association, corporation, or organized group of persons whether or not
15 incorporated.

16 (~~(27)~~) (28) "Pest" means, but is not limited to, any insect,
17 rodent, nematode, snail, slug, weed and any form of plant or animal
18 life or virus, except virus on or in a living person or other animal,
19 which is normally considered to be a pest or which the director may
20 declare to be a pest.

21 (~~(28)~~) (29) "Pest control consultant" means any individual who
22 acts as a structural pest (~~control~~) inspector, who sells or offers
23 for sale at other than a licensed pesticide dealer outlet or location
24 where they are employed, or who offers or supplies technical advice,
25 supervision, or aid, or makes recommendations to the user of:

26 (a) Highly toxic pesticides, as determined under RCW 15.58.040;

27 (b) EPA restricted use pesticides or restricted use pesticides
28 which are restricted by rule to distribution by licensed pesticide
29 dealers only; or

30 (c) Any other pesticide except those pesticides which are labeled
31 and intended for home and garden use only.

32 (~~(29)~~) (30) "Pesticide" means, but is not limited to:

33 (a) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent,
34 destroy, control, repel, or mitigate any insect, rodent, snail, slug,
35 fungus, weed, and any other form of plant or animal life or virus,
36 except virus on or in a living person or other animal which is normally
37 considered to be a pest or which the director may declare to be a pest;

38 (b) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as
39 a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant; and

1 (c) Any spray adjuvant.

2 (~~(30)~~) (31) "Pesticide advisory board" means the pesticide
3 advisory board as provided for in the Washington pesticide application
4 act.

5 (~~(31)~~) (32) "Pesticide dealer" means any person who distributes
6 any of the following pesticides:

7 (a) Highly toxic pesticides, as determined under RCW 15.58.040;

8 (b) EPA restricted use pesticides or restricted use pesticides
9 which are restricted by rule to distribution by licensed pesticide
10 dealers only; or

11 (c) Any other pesticide except those pesticides which are labeled
12 and intended for home and garden use only.

13 (~~(32)~~) (33) "Pesticide dealer manager" means the owner or other
14 individual supervising pesticide distribution at one outlet holding a
15 pesticide dealer license.

16 (~~(33)~~) (34) "Plant regulator" means any substance or mixture of
17 substances intended through physiological action, to accelerate or
18 retard the rate of growth or maturation, or to otherwise alter the
19 behavior of ornamental or crop plants or their produce, but shall not
20 include substances insofar as they are intended to be used as plant
21 nutrients, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant inoculants, or
22 soil amendments.

23 (~~(34)~~) (35) "Registrant" means the person registering any
24 pesticide under the provisions of this chapter.

25 (~~(35)~~) (36) "Restricted use pesticide" means any pesticide or
26 device which, when used as directed or in accordance with a widespread
27 and commonly recognized practice, the director determines, subsequent
28 to a hearing, requires additional restrictions for that use to prevent
29 unreasonable adverse effects on the environment including people,
30 lands, beneficial insects, animals, crops, and wildlife, other than
31 pests.

32 (~~(36)~~) (37) "Rodenticide" means any substance or mixture of
33 substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate rodents, or
34 any other vertebrate animal which the director may declare by rule to
35 be a pest.

36 (~~(37)~~) (38) "Spray adjuvant" means any wetting agent, spreading
37 agent, deposit builder, adhesive, emulsifying agent, deflocculating
38 agent, water modifier, or similar agent with or without toxic
39 properties of its own, intended to be used with any other pesticide as

1 an aid to the application or to the effect of the pesticide, and which
2 is in a package or container separate from that of the pesticide with
3 which it is to be used.

4 (~~(38)~~) (39) "Special local needs registration" means a
5 registration issued by the director pursuant to provisions of section
6 24(c) of FIFRA.

7 (~~(39)~~) (40) "Structural pest (~~control~~) inspector" means any
8 individual who performs the service of inspecting a building for wood
9 destroying organisms, their damage, or conditions conducive to their
10 infestation.

11 (~~(40)~~) (41) "Unreasonable adverse effects on the environment"
12 means any unreasonable risk to people or the environment taking into
13 account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of
14 the use of any pesticide, or as otherwise determined by the director.

15 (~~(41)~~) (42) "Weed" means any plant which grows where not wanted.

16 (43) Wood destroying organism inspection report means any written
17 document that reports or comments on the presence or absence of wood
18 destroying organisms, their damage, and/or conducive conditions leading
19 to the establishment of such organisms.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 15.58 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 It is unlawful for any person to issue a wood destroying organism
23 inspection report, prepared in conjunction with the transfer, exchange,
24 or refinancing of any structure, without recording a unique inspection
25 control number on all reports associated with the transaction.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 15.58 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) The director shall not issue a license to any person who
29 intends to act as a structural pest inspector until the person has
30 furnished evidence of financial responsibility.

31 (2) Evidence of financial responsibility shall consist of either
32 a surety bond or an errors and omissions insurance policy or
33 certification thereof, protecting persons who may suffer legal damages
34 as a result of actions by the structural pest inspector. The director
35 shall not accept a surety bond or insurance policy except from
36 authorized insurers in this state.

1 (3) Evidence of financial responsibility shall be supplied to the
2 department on a financial responsibility insurance certificate or
3 surety bond form.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 15.58 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The following requirements apply to the amount of surety bond
7 or insurance required for structural pest inspectors.

8 (a) The amount of the surety bond or errors and omissions
9 insurance, as provided for in section 3 of this act, shall be not less
10 than twenty-five thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars
11 respectively. The surety bond or insurance policy shall be maintained
12 at not less than the required sum at all times during the licensed
13 period.

14 (b) The director shall be notified ten days before any reduction of
15 insurance coverage at the request of the applicant or cancellation of
16 the surety bond or insurance by the surety or insurer and by the
17 insured.

18 (c) The total and aggregate of the surety and insurer for all
19 claims is limited to the face of the surety bond or insurance policy.
20 The director may accept a surety bond or insurance policy in the proper
21 sum that has a deductible clause in an amount not exceeding five
22 thousand dollars for the total amount of surety bond or insurance
23 required by this section. If the applicant has not satisfied the
24 requirement of the deductible amount in any prior legal claim the
25 deductible clause shall not be accepted by the director unless the
26 applicant furnishes the director with a surety bond or insurance policy
27 which shall satisfy the amount of the deductible as to all claims that
28 may arise.

29 (2) Insurance policies must be written on an occurrence basis.

30 (3) Insurance policies shall have a minimum three-year occurrence
31 clause.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 15.58 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 Whenever a structural pest inspector's surety bond or insurance
35 policy is reduced below the requirements of section 4 of this act, or
36 whenever the person has failed to provide evidence of financial
37 responsibility as required by section 3 of this act by the expiration

1 date of the previous surety bond or insurance policy, the director
2 shall immediately suspend the person's structural pest inspector
3 license until the person's surety bond or insurance policy again meets
4 the requirements of section 4 of this act.

5 **Sec. 6.** RCW 15.58.150 and 1991 c 264 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) It is unlawful for any person to distribute within the state or
8 deliver for transportation or transport in intrastate commerce or
9 between points within this state through any point outside this state
10 any of the following:

11 (a) Any pesticide which has not been registered pursuant to the
12 provisions of this chapter;

13 (b) Any pesticide if any of the claims made for it or any of the
14 directions for its use or other labeling differs from the
15 representations made in connection with its registration, or if the
16 composition of a pesticide differs from its composition as represented
17 in connection with its registration: PROVIDED, That at the discretion
18 of the director, a change in the labeling or formula of a pesticide may
19 be made within a registration period without requiring reregistration
20 of the product;

21 (c) Any pesticide unless it is in the registrant's or the
22 manufacturer's unbroken immediate container and there is affixed to
23 such container, and to the outside container or wrapper of the retail
24 package, if there is one through which the required information on the
25 immediate container cannot be clearly read, a label bearing the
26 information required in this chapter and the rules adopted under this
27 chapter;

28 (d) Any pesticide including arsenicals, fluorides, fluosilicates,
29 and/or any other white powdered pesticides unless they have been
30 distinctly denatured as to color, taste, odor, or form if so required
31 by rule;

32 (e) Any pesticide which is adulterated or misbranded, or any device
33 which is misbranded;

34 (f) Any pesticide in containers, violating rules adopted pursuant
35 to RCW 15.58.040(2)(f) or pesticides found in containers which are
36 unsafe due to damage.

37 (2) It shall be unlawful:

1 (a) To sell or deliver any pesticide to any person who is required
2 by law or rules promulgated under such law to be certified, licensed,
3 or have a permit to use or purchase the pesticide unless such person or
4 the person's agent, to whom sale or delivery is made, has a valid
5 certification, license, or permit to use or purchase the kind and
6 quantity of such pesticide sold or delivered: PROVIDED, That, subject
7 to conditions established by the director, such permit may be obtained
8 immediately prior to sale or delivery from any person designated by the
9 director;

10 (b) For any person to detach, alter, deface or destroy, wholly or
11 in part, any label or labeling provided for in this chapter or rules
12 adopted under this chapter, or to add any substance to, or take any
13 substance from, a pesticide in a manner that may defeat the purpose of
14 this chapter or the rules adopted thereunder;

15 (c) For any person to use or cause to be used any pesticide
16 contrary to label directions or to regulations of the director if those
17 regulations differ from or further restrict the label directions:
18 PROVIDED, The compliance to the term "contrary to label directions" is
19 enforced by the director consistent with the intent of this chapter;

20 (d) For any person to use for his or her own advantage or to
21 reveal, other than to the director or proper officials or employees of
22 the state, or to the courts of the state in response to a subpoena, or
23 to physicians, or in emergencies to pharmacists and other qualified
24 persons for use in the preparation of antidotes, any information
25 relative to formulas of products acquired by authority of RCW
26 15.58.060;

27 (e) For any person to make false, misleading, or erroneous
28 statements or reports concerning any pest during or after a pest
29 inspection or to fail to comply with criteria established by rule for
30 structural pest (~~control~~) inspections;

31 (f) For any person to make false, misleading, or erroneous
32 statements or reports in connection with any pesticide complaint or
33 investigation;

34 (g) For any person to advertise as a licensed structural pest
35 inspector without having a valid pest control consultant license in the
36 category of structural pest inspector.

37 **Sec. 7.** RCW 15.58.233 and 1997 c 242 s 10 are each amended to read
38 as follows:

1 (1) The director may renew any license issued under this chapter
2 subject to the recertification standards identified in subsection (2)
3 of this section or an examination requiring new knowledge that may be
4 required to apply pesticides.

5 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, all
6 individuals licensed under this chapter shall meet the recertification
7 standards identified in (a) or (b) of this subsection, every five
8 years, in order to qualify for continuing licensure.

9 (a) (~~Licensed pesticide applicators~~) Individuals licensed under
10 this chapter may qualify for continued licensure through accumulation
11 of recertification credits. Individuals licensed under this chapter
12 shall accumulate a minimum of forty department-approved credits every
13 five years with no more than fifteen credits allowed per year.

14 (b) (~~Licensed pesticide applicators~~) Individuals licensed under
15 this chapter may qualify for continued licensure through meeting the
16 examination requirements necessary to become licensed in those areas in
17 which the licensee operates.

18 (3) At the termination of a licensee's five-year recertification
19 period, the director may waive the recertification requirements if the
20 licensee can demonstrate that he or she is meeting comparable
21 recertification standards through another state or jurisdiction or
22 through a federal environmental protection agency-approved government
23 agency plan.

24 **Sec. 8.** RCW 15.58.040 and 1997 c 242 s 1 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) The director shall administer and enforce the provisions of
27 this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter. All the authority
28 and requirements provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW (Administrative
29 Procedure Act) and chapter 42.30 RCW shall apply to this chapter in the
30 adoption of rules including those requiring due notice and a hearing
31 for the adoption of permanent rules.

32 (2) The director is authorized to adopt appropriate rules for
33 carrying out the purpose and provisions of this chapter, including but
34 not limited to rules providing for:

35 (a) Declaring as a pest any form of plant or animal life or virus
36 which is injurious to plants, people, animals (domestic or otherwise),
37 land, articles, or substances;

1 (b) Determining that certain pesticides are highly toxic to people.
2 For the purpose of this chapter, highly toxic pesticide means any
3 pesticide that conforms to the criteria in 40 C.F.R. Sec. 156.10 for
4 toxicity category I due to oral inhalation or dermal toxicity. The
5 director shall publish a list of all pesticides, determined to be
6 highly toxic, by their common or generic name and their trade or brand
7 name if practical. Such list shall be kept current and shall, upon
8 request, be made available to any interested party;

9 (c) Determining standards for denaturing pesticides by color,
10 taste, odor, or form;

11 (d) The collection and examination of samples of pesticides or
12 devices;

13 (e) The safe handling, transportation, storage, display,
14 distribution, and disposal of pesticides and their containers;

15 (f) Restricting or prohibiting the use of certain types of
16 containers or packages for specific pesticides. These restrictions may
17 apply to type of construction, strength, and/or size to alleviate
18 danger of spillage, breakage, misuse, or any other hazard to the
19 public. The director shall be guided by federal regulations concerning
20 pesticide containers;

21 (g) Procedures in making of pesticide recommendations;

22 (h) Adopting a list of restricted use pesticides for the state or
23 for designated areas within the state if the director determines that
24 such pesticides may require rules restricting or prohibiting their
25 distribution or use. The director may include in the rule the time and
26 conditions of distribution or use of such restricted use pesticides and
27 may, if it is found necessary to carry out the purpose and provisions
28 of this chapter, require that any or all restricted use pesticides
29 shall be purchased, possessed, or used only under permit of the
30 director and under the director's direct supervision in certain areas
31 and/or under certain conditions or in certain quantities or
32 concentrations. The director may require all persons issued such
33 permits to maintain records as to the use of all the restricted use
34 pesticides;

35 (i) Label requirements of all pesticides required to be registered
36 under provisions of this chapter;

37 (j) Regulating the labeling of devices;

38 (k) The establishment of criteria governing the conduct of a
39 structural pest (~~control~~) inspection; and

1 (1) Declaring crops, when grown to produce seed specifically for
2 crop reproduction purposes, to be nonfood and/or nonfeed sites of
3 pesticide application. The director may include in the rule any
4 restrictions or conditions regarding: (i) The application of
5 pesticides to the designated crops; and (ii) the disposition of any
6 portion of the treated crop.

7 (3) For the purpose of uniformity and to avoid confusion
8 endangering the public health and welfare the director may adopt rules
9 in conformity with the primary pesticide standards, particularly as to
10 labeling, established by the United States environmental protection
11 agency or any other federal agency.

12 **Sec. 9.** RCW 15.58.210 and 1997 c 242 s 6 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no
15 individual may perform services as a pest control consultant without
16 obtaining a license from the director. The license shall expire
17 annually on a date set by rule by the director. Except as provided in
18 subsection (3) of this section, no individual may act as a structural
19 pest (~~control~~) inspector without first obtaining from the director a
20 pest control consultant license in the special category of structural
21 pest (~~control~~) inspector. Application for a license shall be on a
22 form prescribed by the director and shall be accompanied by a fee of
23 forty-five dollars.

24 (2) The following are exempt from the licensing requirements of
25 subsection (1) of this section when acting within the authorities of
26 their existing licenses issued under chapter 17.21 RCW: Licensed
27 commercial pesticide applicators and operators; licensed
28 private-commercial applicators; and licensed demonstration and research
29 applicators. The following are also exempt from the licensing
30 requirements of subsection (1) of this section: Employees of federal,
31 state, county, or municipal agencies when acting in their official
32 governmental capacities; and pesticide dealer managers and employees
33 working under the direct supervision of the pesticide dealer manager
34 and only at a licensed pesticide dealer's outlet.

35 (3) The following are exempt from the structural pest (~~control~~)
36 inspector licensing requirement: Individuals inspecting for damage
37 caused by wood destroying organisms if such inspections are solely for
38 the purpose of: (a) Repairing or making specific recommendations for

1 the repair of such damage, or (b) assessing a monetary value for the
2 structure inspected. Individuals performing wood destroying organism
3 inspections that incorporate but are not limited to the activities
4 described in (a) or (b) of this subsection are not exempt from the
5 structural pest (~~control~~) inspector licensing requirement.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act takes effect July 1, 2000.

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