

MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

**POLICY CONCERNING POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF
PROPER TREATMENT SITE BY COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS**

Adopted July 29, 2005

At its June 17, 2005 meeting, the Board listened to many concerns from two neighbors at 34 and 38 Bay Road in Bowdoinham who had come home recently to find that they had received unwanted pesticide applications that should have been made to residential lawns at 34 and 38 Middlesex Road in Topsham. They requested that the Board take action to prevent similar incidents from happening to other Maine citizens. The members observed that the recent number of cases where the wrong property had been treated by commercial applicators demonstrated the need for action. A motion was approved to direct the staff to draft a positive identification policy regarding outdoor applications to residential properties. At its next meeting on July 29, 2005, the Board adopted the following statement as an interim compliance policy until such time as Chapter 20 may be amended to create a new Section 6 dealing with this issue.

To ensure that their employees only treat the property of persons who have requested service, commercial applicators making outdoor treatments to residential properties must develop and implement a system to positively identify the property of their customers. This system must be used prior to making any applications. Applicators that contract for multiple applications must update their information at least annually to confirm the customer still resides in the same location, the identification is still valid, and the customer still desires service. Applicators are encouraged to use multiple identification checks. Examples of appropriate positive identification methods include the following:

1. Obtain the customer's electric meter number in advance of the treatment, list it on the work order or invoice and require the applicator to check for that number before initiating the treatment.
2. Visit the customer in advance of the treatment, and using a global positioning system (GPS), identify the coordinates of each property to be treated. Include the coordinates on the work order or invoice, equip the applicator with a GPS unit and require that employee to check for those coordinates before initiating any treatment.
3. Visit the customer in advance of the treatment and take a digital time/date stamped photo of the home and any distinctive features of the property. Include the photo on the work order or invoice and require the applicator to carefully check the photo before initiating any treatment.
4. Visit the customer in advance of the treatment and attach a company logo or other unique identifying tag on the property. Include the location of the logo/tag on the work order or invoice and require the applicator to carefully check for its presence before initiating any treatment.

The Board encourages the development and implementation of other effective systems not included above.

Applicators are advised that the Board will seek maximum penalties up to and including license suspension for incidents where the wrong property is treated and the applicator cannot show that a positive identification system has been followed.