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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 24, 2015
To: Board Members
From: Gary Fish
Subject: Policy regarding application of pesticides to unoccupied hotel rooms and apartments

Background

At the December 5, 2014 meeting the Board had a discussion regarding pesticide applications to hotel rooms and unoccupied apartments. State statutes define pesticide applications made to property open to use by the public as “custom applications” which may only be conducted by a licensed commercial applicator.

Section 2 (P) (2) of Chapter 10 defines “property open to use by public” and when those areas are NOT considered open to the public. One of those exemptions includes, “where the public has not been permitted upon the property at any time within seven days of when the property received a pesticide application.”

The Board recognized that indoor pesticide applications inherently pose greater risks to building occupants than outdoor applications because the confined space of a residential building inhibits both the dissipation and breakdown of airborne and surface pesticide residues. Due to these concerns, the Board came to a consensus that the term “property” means the entire building when it involves residential apartments and lodging places¹.

Board Policy

Based on the considerations described above, the Board adopted the following policy on April 24, 2015:

The Board determined that because indoor applications pose greater risks to building occupants, lodging places and apartment buildings should not be included as exemptions to areas open to the public. Therefore all pesticide applications to lodging places or apartment buildings must be made under the direct supervision of a licensed commercial applicator unless the public is excluded from the entire building for the full seven days.

¹Lodging Places - LODGING PLACES means every building or structure, or any part thereof, used, maintained, advertised or held out to the public as a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to the public for business purposes. The term includes, but not by way of limitation, hotels, motels, guest homes and cottages. A Lodging License is required for any person or entity which rents out four or more rooms or cottages. CMR 10-144 Chapter 206