



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management

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PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION

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June 11, 2007

TO: Maryland Association of Home Inspectors

FROM: Dennis W. Howard, Chief, Pesticide Regulation Section

SUBJECT: Home Inspectors Conducting Wood Destroying Insect Inspections

Realtors, home buyers and sellers routinely employ pest control companies to perform wood destroying insect (WDI) inspections. It recently has come to our attention that some home inspection firms are also offering WDI inspections in conjunction with their home inspection work. Please be aware that, under Maryland Law (Title 5 – Pesticide and Pest control, Subtitle – 2 Pesticide Applicator's Law), "pest control" includes inspecting for, and providing opinions on, infestation or damage caused by termites or other wood destroying insects, and may only be offered and performed by a pest control company licensed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

In addition, individuals who conduct WDI inspections must (a) be employees of a licensed pest control firm, (b) be adequately trained, and (c) either have a valid employee registration identification card, or a pest consultant or pesticide applicator certificate issued by MDA. Finally, please note that individuals **may not**:

- < Operate as independent contractors – **they must be** employees of a pest control company that is licensed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- < Solicit WDI inspection work other than as an employee of a licensed pest control company for that company only.
- < Advertise WDI inspections independently of the licensed pest control company.

Failure to comply with the Maryland law and regulations will result in enforcement action being taken against violators.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact this office.