

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Prerequisites and Minimum Criteria for Structural Pest Control

(Private Residences and Commercial Accounts)

General Definition of IPM:

IPM is a sustainable approach to managing pests by using all appropriate technology and management practices in a way that minimizes health, environmental, and economic risks. IPM includes, but is not limited to, monitoring pest populations, consumer education, and when needed, cultivation practices, sanitation, solid waste management, structural maintenance, physical, mechanical, biological and chemical controls.

Prerequisites for an IPM Program

Education of the Client

The IPM practitioner will educate the customer about the principles of IPM as well as the public health and environmental advantages of judicious pesticide use. An overall reduction in chemical controls, along with the appropriate choice of pesticides and application methods through the use of IPM, results in a lower risk and exposure potential for humans, pets and other non-target organisms. Risks and efficacy of both chemical and non-chemical control methods of pest suppression must be considered as part of an overall pest management strategy. Depending on the pest species, the practitioner should emphasize the importance of sanitation and exclusion in the control of pest populations, as well as the importance of client involvement in the process.

Customer Involvement

The practitioner should emphasize the importance of customer involvement with the process of IPM. The customer should:

- ♣ Correct, where feasible, any conditions found by the IPM practitioner to be conducive to the growth of the pest population.
- ♣ Report sightings of pests between service visits.

Credentials of the IPM Practitioner

The IPM practitioner should have the following credentials:

- ♣ A valid Commercial Pesticide Applicator license issued by the NJ DEP
- ♣ Certification in Category 7D (Food Processing Pest Control), Category 7A (General & Household Pest Control), or 7B (Termite & Wood Destroying Insects Pest Control), which ever is appropriate
- ♣ New Jersey Pest Management Association Accredited Wood Destroying Organism Inspector (for services relating to wood destroying organism inspections) if possible

- ♣ Membership in the appropriate professional association if possible
- ♣ Access to an urban entomologist or have one on retainer if possible

Minimum Criteria for IPM:

Monitoring

- ♣ Pest populations will be monitored using various types of traps, mechanical devices, glue boards, sticky traps and pheromones. These devices will be inspected at each service visit.
- ♣ Each service visit will also include a visual inspection by the IPM practitioner, of areas specific to those agreed upon within the service contract.
- ♣ The number and frequency of visits will depend on the nature of each pest problem.

Action Thresholds

An action threshold is a level at which some method of control would be initiated. Action thresholds are determined by such factors as severity of the pest problem, impacts on health and safety, economics and aesthetics related to the pest and user needs for the site where the pest is found. The IPM Practitioner and the customer will determine and record tolerance levels for pests and pest damage. This may vary by pest species or type, and site.

Pest Management Methods

Integrated Pest Management techniques will be used for the prevention and suppression of pests. These include:

1. Identification of the pest.
2. Inspection for and determination of the pest's origin.
3. Select a course of action to include optional methods. Depending upon the pest species, the following methods may be employed:
 - ♣ Sanitation
 - ♣ Exclusion of the pest, if practical. This involves methods to keep the pest out of the residence, such as caulking, plugging holes and putting up screens.
 - ♣ Habitat and behavioral modifications. These methods can help to eliminate or prevent pest problems. Eliminating conditions conducive to a pest infestation will reduce pest attractions to a particular area. These may include: removing the breeding source if possible, eliminating moisture conditions, eliminating harborage, cutting back shrubs and tree limbs next to buildings, using proper lighting (light management) to draw night flying insects away from the property.
 - ♣ Spot treatments of biological products that target the specific pest will be preferred (but not limited to). Consideration should be given to the products and application techniques that lower the level of risk to humans and the environment.
 - ♣ Pesticides shall be applied in accordance with label instructions, at or below label rates.
4. Implement a control option.

5. Follow-up on the progress of the treatment option selected.

Documentation & Recordkeeping

Compile a site-specific history of all monitoring observations, pest infestations, cultural procedures, control measures and pesticide treatments made. This should allow each contractor to note the problems associated with each site. In addition, the principles of an IPM program should be written into the contract.

The IPM practitioner will evaluate and record the effects of all control techniques used. In addition, the IPM practitioner will keep records of the following information and leave a copy with the customer:

- ♣ The results of the inspection,
- ♣ Corrective actions the client should take, and
- ♣ Any actions taken by the IPM practitioner.
- ♣ Pesticide application records shall be kept as required by the NJDEP pesticide control regulations.

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