WATCH FOR CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL ACT

The signing of Senate Bill 1047 (Ridley-Thomas, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2007) by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger amended various sections of the Business and Professions (B&P) Code, including the Structural Pest Control Act.

Section 101.7, a general provision of the B&P Code, was amended to require each DCA board to meet at least three times each calendar year, and at least once each calendar year in Northern California and once in Southern California. The bill authorizes the director of DCA to exempt any board from meeting this requirement, and also provides that the director may call a special meeting of any board when that board is not fulfilling its duties.

Sections changed include:

8505.3: Includes a Branch 1 licensee as the person(s) exercising direct and personal supervision during three phases of fumigation.

8505.15: Repeals the statute, as the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is currently the only standard for respiratory worker protection at a fumigation site. Masks can no longer be used.

8507: Adds the words “apply pesticides” to further clarify the function of a structural pest control field representative.

8509: Changes the word “business” to “the principal office” to clarify that a branch office is a separate physical office from the location of the principal office.

8565.5: Removes the requirement that the SPCB develop an education course. The private sector has met the educational needs of the industry.

8591 and 8592: Clarifies that these sections refer to all license categories (applicator, field representative and operator).

8610: Limits the number of companies a licensed operator can qualify to two. Also provides for companies with a qualifying manager who manages more than two companies to come into compliance with the requirement by January 1, 2010.

8611 and 8612: Clarifies that the licenses of branch office supervisors and qualifying manager must be prominently displayed at registered offices.

8617: Cleans up language to delete the reference to inspection and completion stamps.
Credits

STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD NEWS

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SPCB STANDING COMMITTEES
Continuing Education
Technical Advisory

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Laws and Regulations
Pre-Treatment
Technical Termite Bait Stations
Water Quality

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IN THE NEWS

FORMER LICENSEE ARRESTED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The Board’s Enforcement Unit again teamed up with the Department of Consumer Affairs’ Division of Investigation (DOI) to shut down an illegal structural pest control company, this time in San Diego County.

The Board had revoked the operator’s license of James Mack Hughes, and the company registration issued to Pace Termite and Pest Control, in November 2005. Hughes was the owner and qualifying manager of Pace. Sources within the pest control industry and consumers who were victimized told the Board that Hughes was continuing to operate as a licensee in violation of the Board’s order.

Following an investigation by DOI, Hughes and another person were arrested by the San Diego Police Department and are awaiting prosecution by the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office.

CHANGES FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Existing law provides that the Agricultural Commissioners of Los Angeles and Orange counties may contract with the Director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to perform increased structural fumigation, inspection, and enforcement activities in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Assembly Bill 126 (Beall, Chapter 379, Statutes of 2007) applies these provisions to Santa Clara County. Any person who performs a structural fumigation in Santa Clara County will pay the Santa Clara County Agricultural Commissioner a fee of $5 for each treatment per specific building or structure.
Proper consumer pesticide notification is crucial to structural pest control operations. Business and Professions Code section 8538 requires all branches of structural pest control to use specific wording when notifying consumers about a pesticide proposed for use. The required wording includes phone numbers for the government entities listed in the notice. When government entities change phone numbers and when businesses change the pesticides they will use on periodic services under contract, the pesticide notification documents must be updated, too.

If symptoms of overexposure not typical of influenza could occur, the notification must indicate such symptoms.

Section 8538 of the Business and Professions Code may be viewed on the Structural Pest Control Board Web site, www.pestboard.ca.gov.

USING SUBCONTRACTORS? REMEMBER CONSUMER NOTIFICATION RULES

Subcontracting with other pest control companies, trade contractors, and vendors is a vital part of the structural pest control industry practice. When acting as a prime contractor, it is your responsibility to provide consumer notification as required by law.

A registered company may subcontract for the services it provides in the following situations:

If a registered company's pest inspection (for either general pest control or wood destroying pests or organisms) finds pests but the required course of treatment is beyond the scope of the company’s branch registration, it may subcontract for the treatment with a registered company that can perform the requested treatment within the scope of its branch registration.

If a registered company needs to contract for work incidental to structural pest control, it may enter into contracts with individuals or companies not licensed in structural pest control; i.e., construction trade contractors, furniture movers, and trash- haulers.

If a company needs additional help providing services it is registered to perform, the company may subcontract for the services with another licensed company.

The most common type of subcontracting in structural pest control is contracting between a Branch 3 registered company and a Branch 1 registered company for structural fumigation. Branch 3 registered companies also contract out structural repairs involving wood- destroying pests and organisms with roofers, tile setters, concrete contractors, and others.
Branch 3 companies should consider the following when contracting out for services:

Structural fumigation: A registered company shall not subcontract structural fumigation work without the written consent of the consumer. The consumer must be informed in advance, in writing, of any proposed work which the registered company intends to subcontract and of the consumer’s right to select another person or entity to perform the work.

Structural repairs: You must provide the consumer with a “Notice to Owner” before work begins. Consumers must be informed that if you do not pay your subcontractor(s), they may be liable for the money owed because of their contract with you.

NOTIFY THE BOARD WHEN YOU CHANGE EMPLOYERS

The Board’s online license lookup is a useful feature for licensees and consumers to verify the licenses of company employees. Many times this information is inaccurate because licensees do not notify the Board when they change employers. Companies often ask us to remove the name of a licensee who no longer works for them, but we cannot make that change unless the licensee requests it.

The Board recommends that when an employee leaves a company, company representatives should have the licensee complete a Notice of Transfer of Employment form in their presence. The company should then forward the signed form to the Board, so that the change can be made quickly on the license lookup database. Notice of Transfer of Employment forms are available online at www.pestboard.ca.gov. To have a printed copy mailed to you, call (916) 561-8704.

The same form should be used when a licensee joins a company.

Introducing:
TIM FORD, NEW BOARD SPECIALIST

The Board is pleased to introduce Tim Ford as the latest addition to Southern California Board Specialists.

Ford was born, raised, and lives in Southern California, where he worked in construction and swimming pool repair. His grandfather and uncle bought a pest control company in 1957, and the company is currently owned and operated by Ford’s father. Ford started his pest control career as a registered applicator in 1995, when he went to work for the family business. He continued his training, was issued a field representative’s license in 1998, and subsequently obtained his Branch 3 operator’s license in 2006.
PEST CONTROL COMPANIES ARE EXEMPT FROM CONTRACTOR’S LICENSE LAWS

Licensees periodically call the Structural Pest Control Board stating that local building departments are reluctant or unwilling to issue building permits to structural pest control companies without proof of an appropriate contractors license. That should not happen.

Business and Professions Code section 460 states that no city or county shall prohibit a person authorized by one of the agencies of the Department of Consumer Affairs by a license, certificate, or other such means to engage in a particular business, from engaging in that business, occupation, or profession, or any portion thereof.

Contractors State Licensing Board (CSLB) has a provision exempting structural pest control licensees from the provisions of the CSLB. Section 7051 of the Business and Professions Code (Contractors State Licensing Law) states:

“This chapter does not apply to a licensed architect or a registered civil or professional engineer acting solely in his or her professional capacity or to a licensed structural pest control operator acting within the scope of his or her license or a licensee operating within the scope of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act.” (Emphasis added)

Sections 8505 and 8560 of the Business and Professions Code (in the Structural Pest Control Act) clearly state the authority for registered structural pest control companies to perform structural repairs and corrections with respect to wood-destroying pests or organisms which invade structures.
APPLICATORS:
DON'T FORGET YOUR CONTINUING EDUCATION

All licensed applicators renewing their licenses during the three-year period ending December 31, 2008, are required to complete continuing education hours pursuant to Section 1950 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. A licensed applicator must be able to demonstrate completion of 12 hours of Board-approved continuing education.

The continuing education must consist of the following:
* Eight hours on pesticide application and use.
* Four hours on the Structural Pest Control Act and its rules and regulations or on structural pest-related agencies’ rules and regulations.
* A list of approved activities can be found on the Board’s Web site, www.pestboard.ca.gov. Click on Continuing Education.

TIPS ON COMPLETING THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM

During the 2007 license renewal period, the Board discovered that licensees were having difficulty completing the Renewal Application Form correctly, particularly the box regarding the Continuing Education Certification. This confusion led to significant delays in the Board’s ability to complete the renewal process for many licensees.

It you don’t complete all the required fields, the Board will notify you of the error and request the missing information. The application for renewal will be on hold until you send the Board the requested information.

Here are some tips for completing the form:
Parts D and H. All licensees must complete these parts.
You have the option of completing the required continuing education hours OR of passing the challenge examination. If you have completed the required continuing education, you write the number of hours in part C on the form, and sign under penalty of perjury that you have completed the required number of continuing education hours.

Parts F and G. These parts are for licensees using the challenge examination instead of completing the continuing education hours. The Board administers the examination monthly. You may take it no earlier than one year prior to the expiration date of your license, and can take the examination only once.

Part E. This section is for address changes only.

For specific renewal information and instructions, click on the “continuing education” tab at the top of the page on the Board’s Web site at www.pestboard.ca.gov.

INCLUDE THE PROPER FORMS WHEN SUBMITTING A CHECK

Each day, the Board receives an abundance of checks for various services. Often a check is received without identifying documentation. If the cashier is unable to determine what the check is for, the cashier will call the check writer to find out. This could cause a delay of service.

You can ensure prompt processing of requests for services by including the appropriate form with your check. Forms, including the Stamp Request Form (#36) and the Request for WDO Account Deposit (#40), are available online at www.pestboard.ca.gov.

SPCB NEWS: SPRING 2008 6/7
PERSONAL ELECTRONICS DON’T BELONG IN THE EXAM ROOM
Although we live in an age in which nearly everyone owns communication devices such as cell phones and PDAs, applicants should be aware that those devices are not allowed in the examination room. Also prohibited are pagers, cameras, video and tape recorders, radios, and laptop computers.

NEW BRANCH 3 LICENSING EXAMS DEBUT
Several volunteer structural pest control licensees participated in workshops to help develop new Branch 3 field representative and operator examinations. Thanks to their cooperation, experience, and knowledge, the new and updated examinations made their debut on October 15, 2007.

Candidate handbooks are currently available on the Board’s Web site, www.pestboard.ca.gov, and will be included in examination materials requested through the mail.

THE DISCIPLINARY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP
The Structural Pest Control Board is looking for licensees who are interested in serving a one-year term as the industry representative on the Board’s Disciplinary Review Committee.

The committee reviews appeals of suspensions or fines for violations of pesticide use laws and regulations filed by structural pest control licensees.

Licensees interested in serving on the committee should submit a resume to Karen Costley, Structural Pest Control Board, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento CA 95815-3831.
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE AND OPERATOR EXAMS FOR 2008

Examination notices are mailed on the Friday following the final filing postmarked date. Results are mailed on the Friday of the examination week.

County agricultural commissioner’s offices throughout the State administer registered applicator examinations. Contact the agricultural commissioner’s office in your county for examination dates. Check your phone directory for contact information.

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* Dates may change due to availability of appropriate facilities.
Office updates

WEB SITE GETS A NEW LOOK
In November 2007, the Board’s Web site underwent a complete redesign. All State agencies were required to adopt a new look, which was developed to improve navigation and accessibility. The Board saw this as an opportunity to add several new pages to help not only consumers but also members of the pest control industry.

One of the new additions to the Board’s Web site is a group of links entitled “How Do I?” This section, found on the left-hand side of each page, will answer many of the frequent questions that Board staff encounters. Examples include step-by-step instructions on how to obtain a pest control license and how to start a pest control company, as well as consumer-specific questions such as how to file a complaint with the Board and how to check to see if a property has been inspected.

All of the features previously available on the Board’s Web site, such as the license lookup and often-updated electronic version of the Structural Pest Control Act, have been carried over to the new site.
NEW HOME FOR SPCB
The Board moved to its new location on March 21.

The new address is:
Structural Pest Control Board
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95815-3831

The Board’s phone numbers remain the same:
Administration 916.561.8700
Licensing 916.561.8704
Complaints 916.561.8708
Fax 916.263.2469

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK
We hope you find the SPCB News useful. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues. You can contact us by phone at (916) 561-8700 or by an e-mail at pestboard@dca.ca.gov.

We will keep present and past copies of the SPCB News on the SPCB Web site at www.pestboard.ca.gov, and our staff will mail printed copies to offices and individuals on the general mailing list. Employers, please share this newsletter with your staff and let them know they can sign up to get their own copies by calling us or sending us an e-mail.

If you need to update your newsletter mailing list, e-mail Carolyn Albers at Carolyn_Albers@dca.ca.gov, or call her at (916) 561-8700.

TAKE NOTE OF STATE HOLIDAYS
If you call the Structural Pest Control Board office on a State holiday, you will hear a recorded message telling you the office is closed. If you get this recording, you will not be able to leave a message, and you will have to call back.

2008 HOLIDAYS
Memorial Day
Monday, May 26, 2008
Independence Day
Friday, July 4, 2008
Labor Day
Monday, September 1, 2008
Columbus Day (Observed)
Monday, October 13, 2008
Veteran’s Day (Observed)
Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 27, 2008
Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, November 28, 2008
Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25, 2008
IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the applicator’s license issued to John A. Hernandez (RA 43926, Branches 2 and 3) of Anaheim was revoked. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective September 20, 2007.

IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the field representative’s license issued to Robert Anthony Garcia (FR 27382, Branch 2) of Chula Vista was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective September 12, 2007.

IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the field representative’s license issued to Victor R. Ortega (FR 35249, Branch 3) of Long Beach was revoked. Respondent failed to properly prepare inspection reports and make recommendations for corrective measures or complete repairs. The decision was effective September 12, 2007.

FOLLOWING A HEARING, in the matter of the application for the issuance of a Branches 2 and 3 applicator’s license submitted by Daniel James Curran IV of Moreno Valley, the Board granted a probationary applicator’s license with a term of three years. Respondent is required to file quarterly reports with the Board. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective August 29, 2007.

IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT, the field representative’s license issued to Joseph Urias (FR 31332, Branch 1) of San Jose was suspended for two days and placed on three years’ probation. Respondent is required to file quarterly reports with the Board and complete four hours rules and regulations, and eight hours technical training in Branch 1. It was alleged that respondent failed to properly relock and secure a structure against re-entry prior to clearance of the structure for reoccupancy. The decision was effective August 27, 2007.

IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT, the company registration certificate held by Cartwright Termite & Pest Control, Inc. (PR 389, Branches 1, 2, and 3) and the operator’s license issued to Michael R. Cartwright Sr. (OPR 4563, Branches 1, 2, and 3) of El Cajon were placed on two years’ probation. Respondent is required to file quarterly reports with the Board and reimburse the Board $12,000 for investigative costs. The accusation alleged that respondents failed to perform work in a careful manner by using pest control equipment which was not in good repair and safe to operate by using a leaking power sprayer and by removing Vikane warning signs and secondary locks.
prior to testing the structure for Vikane levels. It was alleged that respondent also removed the secondary locks from the structure prior to declaring the structure to be safe for reoccupancy. The decision was effective August 27, 2007.

**IN THE SAME MATTER**, the field representative's license issued to Nelson Wyatt (FR 19858, Branch 2) of San Diego shall pay the sum of $250 to the Board. It was alleged that respondent failed to perform work in a careful manner by using pest control equipment that was not in good repair and safe to operate by using a leaking power sprayer. The decision was effective August 27, 2007.

**IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT**, in the matter of the application for the issuance of a Branches 2 and 3 applicator's license submitted by Douglas Alan Moody of Costa Mesa, the Board denied the application of an applicator's license. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective August 23, 2007.

**FOLLOWING A HEARING**, in the matter of the application for the issuance of a Branches 2 and 3 applicator's license submitted by David Alan Juarez of Bay Point, the Board denied the application of an applicator's license. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective August 23, 2007.

**IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT**, the field representative's license issued to Mark F. Williams (FR 17951, Branch 2) of Riverside was surrendered and accepted by the Board. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective August 23, 2007.

**IN A DEFAULT DECISION**, the field representative's license issued to Tamara L. Cazenave (FR 36024, Branch 2) of Ontario was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective August 17, 2007.

**IN A DEFAULT DECISION**, the field representative's license issued to Augie Enriquez (FR 31940, Branch 1) of Whittier was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective August 23, 2007.

**IN A DEFAULT DECISION**, the field representative's license issued to Elizabeth Le Gaspe (FR 35513, Branch 2) of Covina was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective August 16, 2007.

**IN A DEFAULT DECISION**, the field representative's license issued to Scott Christopher Cardenas (FR 36004, Branch 2) of Whittier was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective August 2, 2007.
IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the field representative’s license issued to Cordona A. Floyd (FR 22222, Branches 2 and 3) of Walnut was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective August 2, 2007.

IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the applicator’s license issued to Kyle Christopher Phipps (RA 42704, Branches 2 and 3) of Rancho Cordova was revoked. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective July 30, 2007.

IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the application for the issuance of a Branches 2 and 3 applicator’s license submitted by Dwight D. Bailey of Citrus Heights was denied. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective June 2, 2007.

IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the field representative’s license issued to Jimmy R. Fikes (FR 35586, Branches 2 and 3) of Fontana was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective June 2, 2007.

IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT, the company registration certificate held by Phoenix Termite Control (PR 2189, Branch 3) and the operator’s license issued to Rudy Al Garcia (OPR 8907, Branch 3) of Los Angeles were suspended for five days and placed on three years’ probation. Respondents were required to file quarterly reports with the Board and reimburse the Board $3,000 for investigative costs. Respondents failed to report evidence of drywood termites and subterranean termites. Respondents also failed to complete the work in a quality and workmanlike manner. The decision was effective May 27, 2007.

FOLLOWING A HEARING in the matter of the application for the issuance of a Branches 2 and 3 applicator’s license submitted by Jose Hugo Madrid of Los Angeles, the Board denied the application of an applicator’s license. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective May 26, 2007.

IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT, the field representative’s license issued to Kevin Ray Hinkle (RA 40752, Branches 2 and 3) of Costa Mesa was revoked. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective May 5, 2007.

IN A DEFAULT DECISION, the field representative’s license issued to Brian Wayne Lamb (FR 32701, Branch 2) of Campbell was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective May 4, 2007.

IN A STIPULATED SETTLEMENT, the field representative’s license issued to Edward Da Shawn Ray (FR 34810, Branch 3) of West Sacramento was issued a citation and fine in the amount of $1,500. Respondent failed to verify the completion of continuing education hours upon the request of the Board. The decision was effective March 22, 2007.
In the matter of the application for the issuance of a Branch 2 field representative’s license submitted by Romulo Beltran of Santa Barbara, the Board granted a probationary field representative’s license with a term of three years. Respondent is required to file quarterly reports with the Board. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee. The decision was effective February 23, 2007.

In a stipulated settlement, the field representative’s license issued to August Spencer (FR 24986, Branch 2) of Laguna Hills was surrendered and accepted by the Board. Respondent engaged and/or offered to engage in the practice of structural pest control when he was not registered with the Board as a pest control company. The decision was effective February 22, 2007.

In a stipulated settlement, the field representative’s license issued to Lamont Simmons (FR 34181, Branch 3) of Long Beach was surrendered and accepted by the Board. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective February 22, 2007.

In a stipulated settlement, the field representative’s license issued to Francis Vasquez Gonzalez (FR 33643, Branch 3) of Glendale was surrendered and accepted by the Board. The accusation alleged that respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective February 22, 2007.

Following a hearing in the matter of the application for the issuance of a Branch 2 and 3 applicator’s license submitted by Tommy Earl Vessel of Modesto, the Board denied the application for an applicator’s license. Respondent had been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensee. The decision was effective February 21, 2007.

In a default decision, the company registration held by Ostic Termite Control (PR 1935, Branch 3) and operator’s license issued to Vernon Ostic (OPR 7404, Branch 3) of Artesia was revoked. Respondent failed to report subterranean termites, subterranean termite damage, decay fungi damage and evidence of an excessive moisture condition. Respondent also failed to complete repairs for price stated in contract. The decision was effective January 7, 2007.

In a default decision, the field representative’s license issued to Jeff Peters, Jr. (FR 34689, Branch 2) of Stockton was revoked. Respondent failed to provide proof of continuing education. The decision was effective January 7, 2007.