

GDA Relations Meeting- 2QTR 2019

CPCO of GA has established a Legislative Committee to develop government relations. Quarterly meetings with the GDA will take place this year to discuss questions and create a stronger working partnership. Mark Holder, Terry Bowen and Glenda Lehmborg from CPCO of GA met with Derrick Lastinger, Tim Taylor and Alex Conti from the Structural Pest Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Sandy Shell was present to take notes for the GDA.

1. If a person is needing an inspection report for a real estate transaction like a refinancing loan where the property will not be “transferred”, is the pest control company required to use the Official GA WIIR?

Rule 620-6-.03 Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report

*The Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report shall be the written instrument for the purpose of certifying that a structure is apparently free from wood destroying organisms as a basis for **transfer** of real property and shall be issued only by a pest control operator certified in Wood Destroying Organisms.*

The Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report is required for these situations

Notice 14-10: [Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report Fact Sheet](#)

Notice 15-01: [Official Georgia WIIR for HUD and VA Mortgages](#)

2. Do the foundation vents have to be operational in a crawl space? Meaning, are they required to be able to open/close to be considered adequate ventilation?

If the crawlspace is a ventilated crawlspace, the vents must be operational and not obstructed. If the vents are not operational and/or blocked then inadequate ventilation should be noted as a condition conducive on a WIIR, or the ventilation would need to be corrected for a WDO fungi treatment or a wood boring beetle treatment. If the crawlspace is encapsulated, there must be mechanical exhaust or conditioned air supply provided for the crawlspace equivalent to the specifications outlined in the International Residential Building Code for One and Two Family Dwellings.

3. What can the Department do to deal with unlicensed operators? Those who never had a license and continue to advertise services as well as CAT 41 licensed companies that expand to services beyond their license to Structural Pest Control.

If a company has a license through the GDA, either Structural or pesticide, and the company is performing and/or advertising services they are not licensed for, the GDA can issue an enforcement letter stating that the company is not operating in compliance with state law and can be assessed a monetary penalty of up to \$10,000 for each incident.

If a company is performing and/or advertising services that they do not have a license for and they do not have any license with GDA, the GDA can issue an enforcement letter stating that the company is not operating in compliance with state law and can be assessed a monetary penalty of up to \$10,000 for each incident.

The GDA asks that if someone sees an unlicensed company performing or advertising services, to go to the website and report an unlicensed company/operator. Pictures, service tickets, receipts and/or proof of payment for services by a non-licensed company makes it easier to document and pursue these companies. <http://agr.georgia.gov/reporting-unlicensed-operators.aspx>

4. Currently, there are many new field inspectors in the new hire/training status. What are new field inspectors being told is the goal of the regular annual inspections?

All new hires go through a 12-month training process and are being supervised by Nan Collier. This process includes instruction on regulations, standard operating procedures, compliance assistance, and daily on the job training. The compliance and enforcement program has several quality assurance activities. These activities include audits to ensure inspections are consistent and that all staff are following standardized inspection protocols. This program ensures fair and consistent compliance monitoring and consumer protection. Education is always a part of a routine inspection which provides companies with an opportunity to discuss new label restrictions, regulations and policies. Pesticide misuse, unlicensed operators and a history of non-compliance requires great attention for inspection and enforcement response.

5. When do companies expanding to have branches in surrounding states need to pay for a company license in GA? ***Before a company can start operating in Georgia from an out-of-state location, the company must apply and hold an active structural pest control company license.***

6. What are the requirements for restaurants regarding Public Health Standards and pest control services? A member stated that some restaurants are just requesting quotes and never want service. The restaurant seems to be acquiring a quote to obtain their operating license. The concern is that the pest control company who provides a quote could either be blamed or obtain bad reputation when the restaurant is really not allowing or requesting services from the pest control company.

Questions have been sent to the Department of Public Health to ask what the requirements are and what process and entity (local or state) follows up with the requirements. It seems that this issue may be a local municipality issue. The report back from the Department of Public Health is that there is not a state mandate for a contract or quote to be issued from a pest control company to operate a restaurant in Georgia.

7. Could someone with an ACE status or BCE status be considered an educational equivalent plus # of years experience in pest control to be eligible to be a GA approved Trainer?

This question will be presented to the Commission to review and discuss.

8. Recently a pest management company received a request to treat one-half of a two-unit residential structure for active termites. Both units are independently-owned and the other owner would not agree to have their half treated. In the Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission, **Rule 620-6-.02(1)(i) states, "Contracts for residential structures, not exceeding two (2) units, may not limit the area to be treated. The Rules do not allow for a partial treatment of any structure that has no more than two units."**

The pest management company called the Structural Program, and assistance was provided.

Is the GDA and/or the Commission looking at changing the Rule as it currently appears to allow for this situation?

In this situation, an Official Waiver describing what treatment standards are not possible or practical to meet due to the construction of the structure and the common structural elements being owned independently would be an acceptable use of the Form and allow for providing services to the customers in these circumstances.

This has not been discussed recently with the Commission.

9. A member was doing a WIIR for a sale of a property. There was a tree growing through the deck which was attached to the house. Is this considered earth to wood contact? What would the homeowner need to do in order to make this NOT a conducive condition and get a clear letter?

If the tree is in contact with the deck, it would be considered "earth to wood contact" ...To address this, any points of contact between the tree and the deck would have to be eliminated.

10. If a wooden fence touches the house, do you need to treat the fence as well? If so, how far down the fence line?

Treatment of a fence is not required, but it may be something a company chooses to do. If the fence prevents a treatment standard from being met, it would need to be indicated on an Official Waiver. If a WIIR is being issued on a structure where a fence is in contact with the structure, this point of wood to earth contact would need to be addressed or indicated as a conducive condition on the WIIR.

CPCO of GA's Legislative Committee will meet with the GDA on a quarterly basis to bring up questions and/or concerns from the pest control industry. If you have something that you would us to put on the list of topics, please email glenda@cpcoofga.com.