

POISONS CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET

No. 308

PROVISIONAL PEST CONTROL LICENCE (DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL)

In the Northern Territory, an initial provisional licence is required prior to obtaining a “full” Pest Control Operator (PCO) licence.

Provisional licence eligibility

Only persons who are employed by a fully licensed PCO will be eligible to obtain a provisional licence.

It will not be acceptable for an unlicensed applicant to own a pest control business and employ a licensed PCO to train him or her as this would be considered to be a conflict of interest.

To be eligible to obtain a provisional licence, the applicant must have:

- enrolled in the nationally accredited Certificate III Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) competency units 5, 6 and 18
- successfully completed ChemCert or SMARTtrain
- successfully obtained a Senior First Aid certificate and
- completed 100 hours of **shoulder-to-shoulder** practical experience with a licensed PCO. This can be as an employee or as work experience.

When applying for a provisional licence, the applicant must ensure that:

- the application form is completed
- proof of enrolment in Certificate III Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) competency units 5,6 and 18 is provided
- the prescribed fee of \$20 is paid
- a certified photograph is provided and
- there is a **written agreement between the supervising PCO and the trainee PCO**, a copy of which must be presented when the trainee applies for a provisional licence.

The completed application with the required documentation should be forwarded to the:

Chief Poisons Inspector
Poisons Control
Department of Health and Families
PO Box 40596
CASUARINA NT 0811

Provisional licence validity

This licence is valid for period of 12 months.

A provisional licence may be renewed for a further 12 months only at the discretion of the Chief Health Officer or delegate, and the applicant must be able to demonstrate that he or she made every effort to complete the requirements for obtaining a “full” PCO licence within the 12 month provisional licence period.

Working with a provisional licence

The provisional licensee must be supervised by a licensed PCO from within a reasonable day's travel to the work location i.e. the supervising PCO must be able to attend any work location allocated to the licensee to assess the situation and give advice as necessary.

Supervision of the provisional licensee can not be conducted by a licensed PCO located outside the Northern Territory or in a district remote from the licensee eg supervision of an Alice Springs licensee by a Darwin based PCO is not acceptable.

A provisional licence permits the use of a range of unscheduled, Schedule 5 and 6 pesticides **while employed by and under the direction of** a licensed PCO. Use of Schedule 7 pesticides such as arsenic and termiticides used for pre-construction and post-construction termite treatments according to the current Australian Standard must be carried out under **direct shoulder-to-shoulder supervision** of a licensed PCO.

All pest control procedures must be carried out in accordance with the:

- "Guidelines for the Safe Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces" and
- the Code of Conduct for Pest Management Technicians as published in "Pesticide Use in Schools and School Grounds" by the National Environmental Health Forum.

Full PCO licence eligibility

To be eligible to obtain a full PCO licence, the provisional licensee must complete:

- Certificate III Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) competency units 5, 6 and 18.

He or she must also possess a current Senior First Aid certificate before applying for a "full" Pest Control Operator licence from Poisons Control.

For further details please contact:

Poison Control

Phone: (08) 8922 7341

Fax: (08) 8922 7200