

■ FLORIDA PESTICIDE LAW

TERMS:

Licensing and Certification — With few exceptions, it is unlawful for anyone to apply restricted pesticides to agricultural crops without having a certified applicator's license issued by the state or without direct supervision by a certified applicator. Certification requires successful completion of an examination to demonstrate adequate knowledge of the proper use of pesticides. Licenses must be renewed and applicators re-certified every 4 years.

Prohibited Acts — Among other grounds for disciplinary action, licensed pesticide applicators are prohibited from:

- (1) Applying pesticides in a manner contrary to instructions on the product label.
- (2) Operating faulty or unsafe equipment.
- (3) Operating in a faulty, careless or negligent manner so as to cause damage to people or property.
- (4) Applying any pesticide that is harmful to human beings to fields where individuals are working.
- (5) Failing to give the farm operator, at the time pesticides are applied to a crop, full information about potentially harmful effects on humans or animals and safe minimum re-entry times for workers or animals.
- (6) Refusing or neglecting to keep and maintain records, or to make reports as required.
- (7) Failing to report any known damage to property, or illness or injury to people, caused by the application of pesticides.
- (8) Failing to maintain a current liability insurance policy or surety bond.

Reporting Damage or Injuries — A pesticide applicator who fails to report any known injury or damage caused by an application of pesticides, or who does not have liability insurance or a bond covering such accidents, is in violation of this law.

ENFORCEMENT: *Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement, Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (850-617-7997).* A worker who suffers injury or property damage as a result of a pesticide application should file a written report with the Department.