

■ PESTICIDE CONTROL LAWS

TERMS:

Licensing and Certification — No one may use or supervise the use of any pesticide for hire without a commercial applicator's license issued by the state. Issuance of a commercial license generally requires, among other things, that the applicant pass an examination demonstrating the ability to use pesticides safely and effectively. Likewise, farm operators who use restricted pesticides on their own crops must be certified as private applicators, which generally requires training to assure their ability to use restricted pesticides properly.

Financial Responsibility — Before a commercial applicator's license is issued or renewed, the applicant must post a bond or purchase liability insurance amounting to at least \$50,000, covering damages that may result from the applicant's pesticide operations.

Prohibited Use of Pesticides — No one may use, store, handle or dispose of a pesticide, pesticide container, or pesticide application equipment in a manner contrary to instructions on the pesticide label, or in any way that could endanger humans or animals or damage crops or the environment. It is illegal to damage nearby non-targeted property as a result of a pesticide application, or to directly spray pesticides on a human or expose a worker in a nearby open field.

Safeguards at Application Sites — A person may not allow a pesticide or unrinsed pesticide container to be stored or to remain at any location without adequate safeguards to prevent the movement or escape of the material from the location.

Posting — If a pesticide label prescribes a specific period of hours or days before it is safe for people to re-enter an area following treatment with the product, the person applying the pesticide must post warning signs in the field or other areas where the product has been applied, in accordance with label instructions and state regulations.

ENFORCEMENT: *Regulation, Inspection and Enforcement Division, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155 (651-201-6333).*