



ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY AND CROP ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA
VERENIGING VAN DIEREGESONDHEIDS- EN PLANTBESKERMINGSVERENIGINGS VAN SUID-AFRIKA
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MEDIA STATEMENT

IS YOUR PCO A REGISTERED PCO?

7 JULY 2009

EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

STARTS

South Africa is plagued by unregistered pest control operators (PCOs) that defraud the public and farmers with unprofessional services that often lead to human health impacts, environmental impacts and potential crop damage. Pest control operators are controlled by Registrar of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Crop Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). Any individual offering pest control services to domestic, industrial and agricultural clients for financial reward must therefore be registered as a Pest Control Operator by the Registrar to ensure compliance with Act No. 36 of 1947 and general pesticide safety principles.

AVCASA is aware that some operators offering pest control services to farmers in the Western Cape fruit farming areas to control fruit fly, are not registered and therefore not qualified to offer these services. Application equipment used by these individuals is totally inadequate to deliver the pesticides safely and effectively. In other parts of the country similar illegal pest control services are offered by individuals who are not registered with the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947.

Pest control in urban areas for domestic purposes is also often offered by dubious operators who are not in possession of a valid pest control operator's license. Such operators have been implicated in flushing left-over pesticide spray mixture in gardens thereby contaminating soil with pesticide residues. It is also common practice for such operators to use pesticides that are not legally registered for household applications – this poses a serious health risk to members of the public who live in homes or occupy commercial offices.

AVCASA is also aware of unlicensed aerial applicators that apply pesticides by aerial application. This is highly controversial and has brought aerial application of pesticides into disrepute. Aerial applicators must first of all have a valid pilot's license from the Civil Aviation Authority and then obtain the special Aerial Applicators Pest Control Operator's license from the Registrar.

It is important to take note of the fact that pesticides may only be applied for purposes and in manners as indicated on their labels. PCOs that are not registered often apply pesticides contrary to the label instructions and therefore contravene Act No. 36 of 1947. The Registrar has the power designated in the Act to prosecute operators that make themselves guilty of these contraventions. Further powers of the Registrar include the banning and probable attachment of application devices used by PCOs that are not suitable for the safe and effective dispensing of pesticides.

ACDASA (the Agricultural Chemical Distribution Association of South Africa operating as a business unit of AVCASA) will not supply pesticides to pest control operators that are not fully registered as legal PCOs with the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947. ACDASA and its respective members will not be held responsible for crop damage or losses incurred by farmers when unregistered PCOs are contracted to apply pesticides for agricultural purposes.

AVCASA advises the public, the business sector and the agricultural sector to refrain from contracting individuals or companies that are not registered by the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 to perform pest control services. Any suspicious activities or individuals should be reported to AVCASA without delay. AVCASA undertakes to report all such complaints to the Inspectorate of Act No. 36 of 1947 and assist the inspectorate to bring illegal operators and illegal activities to task.

AVCASA supports the principle that pest control operators should be members of an association that can implement self-administration and self-regulation of the pest control industry. The South African Pest Control Association SAPCA is a professional association that offers members a platform to represent themselves and to introduce much needed national standards and controls over this industry. The Aerial Applicators Association of South Africa offers the same services for aerial applicators. Government needs to take cognizance of the need for self-regulation and both these institutions should be given the mandate to do so in the near future.

For further information please contact:

Mr Tom Mabesa, Executive Director AVCASA at 082-657-5329 or

Mr Nic Greyling, Operational Manager of ACDASA at 082-909-2500 or

Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, Griffon Poison Information Centre at 082-446-8946.

ENDS

MEDIA VERKLARING

IS JOU PBO 'N GEREĞISTREERDE PBO?

7 JULIE 2009

EMBARGO: ONMIDDELIK

BEGIN

Suid-Afrika word oorval deur ongeregisteerde plaagbeheeroperateurs (PBOs) wat die publiek en boere bedrieg met onprofessionele dienste wat dikwels negatiewe gevolge vir menslike gesondheid en die omgewing inhou asook oesgewasse mag beskadig. Plaagbeheeroperateurs word beheer deur die Registrateur van die Misstowwe, Veevoedsel, Landboumiddels en Dieremiddels, 1947 (Wet Nr. 36 of 1947). Enige individu wat plaagbeheerdienste aan die publiek, besigheidsektor of landboukliënte vir finansiële vergoeding aanbied, moet dus as Plaagbeheeroperateur deur die Registrateur geregisteer word ten einde aan die vereistes van Wet Nr. 36 van 1947 en algemene plaagdoderveiligheidsbeginsels te voldoen.

AVCASA is bewus van sommige operateurs wat plaagdoderdienste vir Wes-Kaapse boere aanbied om vrugtevlieg te beheer, wat nie geregisteer is nie en dus nie gekwalifiseer is om sulke dienste aan te bied nie. Toedieningsapparaat wat deur sulke individue gebruik word is totaal ongeskik om plaagdoders effektief en veilig toe te dien. In ander dele van die land word soortgelyke plaagbeheerdienste aangebied deur individue wat nie by die Registrateur van Wet Nr. 36 van 1947 geregisteer is nie.

Plaagbeheer vir huishoudelike doeleindes in stedelike gebiede word ook dikwels deur twyfelagtige operateurs, wat nie in besit van geldige plaagbeheeroperateurslisensies is nie, aangebied. Sulke operateurs word beskuldig van die kontaminering van tuingrond deurdat hulle ongebruikte spuitmengsels in tuine stort. Dit is ook algemene praktyk by sulke operateurs om produkte wat nie wettig vir binnenshuise gebruik geregisteer is nie, aan te wend. Dit hou 'n baie groot gesondheidsrisiko in vir lede van die publiek wat in sulke huise woon of in sulke besigheidspersoneel werk.

AVCASA is ook bewus van ongelisensieerde lugbespuiters wat plaagdoders met lugbespuiting aanwend. Dit is hoogs kontroversiël en het lugtoediening in 'n baie slegte lig gestel. Lugbespuiters moet eerstens 'n geldige vlieënierslisensie by die Burgerlugvaartowerheid bekom en daarna die spesiale Lugbespuiters Plaagbeheeroperateurslisensie by die Registrateur bekom.

Dit is belangrik om kennis te neem dat plaagdoders slegs vir doeleindes en op maniere wat op die etikette aangedui is, aangewend mag word. PBOs wat nie geregisteer is nie, wend dikwels plaagdoders teenstrydig met die etiketvoorskrifte aan en oortree dus Wet Nr. 36 van 1947. Die Registrateur het die magte ingevolge die Wet om sulke operateurs te vervolg. Verdere magte van die Registrateur sluit die vermoë in om toedieningsapparaat wat deur PBOs gebruik word en nie veilig en effektief is nie, te verban en moontlik daarop beslag te lê.

ACDASA (die Landbouchemiese Verspreidingsvereniging van Suid-Afrika wat as 'n besigheidseenheid van AVCASA funksioneer) sal nie plaagdoders aan plaagbeheeroperateurs voorsien nie wat nie ten volle as wettige PBOs by die Registrateur van Wet Nr. 36 van 1947 geregisteer is nie.

ACDASA en sy onderskeie lede sal nie verantwoordelik gehou word vir enige oesgewasskade of verliese wat gelei mag word wanneer ongeregistreerde PBOs plaagdoders vir landboudoeleindes toedien nie.

AVCASA adviseer die publiek, die besigheidsektor en die landbousektor om individue of maatskappye wat nie by die Registrateur van Wet Nr. 36 van 1947 geregistreer is nie, nie vir plaagbeheerdienste te kontrakteer nie. Enige verdagte optrede op persone moet onverwyld by AVCASA aangemeld word. AVCASA onderneem om al sulke klagtes aan die Inspektoraat van Wet Nr. 36 van 1947 te rapporteer en die inspektoraat by te staan om sulke onwettige operateurs en onwettige optredes te ondersoek en skuldiges te vervolg.

AVCASA ondersteun die beginsel dat plaagbeheeroperateurs aan 'n vereniging behoort wat self-administrasie en self-regulering van die bedryf kan handhaaf. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Plaagbeheervereniging SAPCA is 'n professionele vereniging wat 'n platform vir lede daarstel om hulleself te verteenwoordig, en ook om broodnodige nasionale standaarde en beheeraksies oor die bedryf in te stel. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Lugbespuitersvereniging bied dieselfde dienste aan lugbespuiters. Die regering moet kennis neem van die behoefte vir selfregulering en beide bogenoemde instansies behoort binnekort die mandaat gegee te word om so te doen.

Vir verdere inligting skakel asb:

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Mnr Nic Greyling, Operasionele Bestuurder van ACDASA by 082-909-2500 of

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