

JUNE/JULY
2009

Update

NPMA LIBRARY UPDATE

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2009 Pest Management Standards for Food Plants: Allergen Section Revised

The NPMA Pest Management Standards for Food Plants are revised each year to reflect pest management trends, food industry advances, and feedback from the field including third party auditors. For the 2009 version of the Standards, minor edits were completed and a new section, 2.14, was added to address the heightened awareness by the food industry about food allergens. In addition, reports from members in the field noted a dramatic increase in food industry clients demanding either proof that products used by our industry in food plants are allergen-free or that they are identified as containing allergens. The concern of the food industry is cross contamination of, for example, an allergen nut product used as a bait on snap traps into the food in a facility which doesn't have any other allergens. This created an issue for the pest management firm since active ingredients commonly are the only ingredients on the label.

Due to confidentiality of formulations protected by federal law, most pest management firms have no access to allergen information. The 2009 Standards incorporating 2.14 were

carefully crafted by the Commercial Division Steering Committee and manufacturers to request allergen information while protecting formulation confidentiality for the manufacturers. This action was at the direct request of members. At the same time, some third party auditors were modifying their expectations to address allergens in plants. For example, AIB International released their new Consolidated Standards after the 2009 NPMA Standards were introduced late last year.

In order to be consistent with third party auditors, the Commercial Division Steering Committee modified the allergen provisions in 2.14 since the third party auditors have



addressed the issue. The revised version mirrors third party auditor requirements that any plant must have an allergen control program in place. Therefore, contractors including pest management firms must comply with plant policies. This revised provision will be consistent with third party and food plant requirements.

Below is a copy of the previous 2.14 with strikethrough and underline showing the modifications, as well as a clean copy (on the following page) with a blank reverse side.

Remove the following page of this publication and file it with the pest management firm's copy of the 2009 Pest Management Standards for Food Plants. ●

Changes to the Allergen Section:

2009 National Pest Management Association, Inc.
Pest Management Standards for Food Plants

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Standard Section: Pest Management Plan—Title: Compliance with Plant Food Allergen Control Program Food Allergens—Standard Number 2.14 (Revised 2/20/09)

Background

In recent years, there has been a great emphasis on food allergens, most notably, peanut products. Many consumers have acute reactions to food allergens. "Big Eight" allergens include: cow's milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soybean products, wheat, fish, and crustacean shellfish. Consequently, food plants must declare if there is a possibility of any of these products entering the food either as an ingredient or an incidental additive. Plant policies and third party auditor standards may require formal food allergen control programs and these might affect pest management practices.

~~Food-plants have expanded their criteria for allergen free in many cases for any products used in the plant but not food ingredients, including pest management products. This section prohibits the use of any pest management product in the plant which contains any of the Big Eight allergens, unless waived by the plant. For example, a peanut processor already declaring this allergen would waive this requirement for peanut containing pest management products. Also, some plants might not have a concern about allergen-containing pest management products and would waive the requirement.~~

Standard

~~No pest management product may be used inside any food plant if the product contains any of the Big Eight allergens: cow's milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soybean products, wheat, fish, and crustacean shellfish. Before products may be used in a plant, the pest management company must file a copy of the statement from the manufacturer that the products contain none of the Big Eight allergens. Exception: This section may be waived by the food plant. If the plant waives this requirement, a signed statement by the plant must be retained in the records. The pest management company must comply with any plant food allergen control program as it relates to pest management practices.~~

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NATIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION inc.
Protectors of Public Health and Property *International*

2009 National Pest Management Association, Inc. Pest Management Standards for Food Plants

Standard Section: Pest Management Plan

Title: Compliance with Plant Food Allergen Control Program

Standard

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