NPMA Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force
October 22, 2010

The NPMA Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force is a broad-based stakeholder group whose goal is the development of an industry-wide comprehensive response to the bed bug pandemic sweeping the globe, including education, standards, policy, and research.   Listed below are the individuals who have been invited to participate in the task force, the proposed scope of the group and the timeline for its activities.

I.   Task Force Members--The following have been invited to serve on the task force:

Researchers

Dini Miller, Virginia Tech
Stephen Kells, Univ. of Minn.
Susan Jones, Ohio State Univ.
Rick Cooper, Rutgers
Phil Koehler, Univ. of Florida
Gail Getty, Univ. of California
Changlu Wang, Rutgers
Stephen Doggett, Australia

Pest Management Professionals

Rich Stevenson, Modern, ME
Andrew Klein, Assured Environments, NY
Scott Steckel, Varment Guard, OH
Lonnie Alonso, Columbus Pest Control, OH
Jay Bruesch, Plunkett's, MN
Dave Burns, Burns Pest Solutions, Phoenix
Chris Arne, Rentokil, PA
Bert Putterman, AZ Exterminating, Phoenix
Alfie Treleven, Sprague Pest Solutions, WA
Mike Katz, Western Exterminator, CA

Matt Nixon, American Pest Mgt, MD
Ron Harrison, Orkin Pest Control, GA
Norman Goldenberg, Terminix Int'l., TN
Mark Sheperdigian, Rose Pest Solutions, MI
Mike Rottler, Rottler Pest Solutions, MO
Judy Black, Steritech, NC
Donnie Blake, OPC, KY
Todd Leyse, Adams Pest, MN
Louis Witherington, Falcon Termite & Pest, FL
Debra Kay, Envirotech, CO
Mark O'Hara, Anderson Pest Solutions, IL
Michael Botha, Sandwich Isle, HI

Regulators and Others

Bonnie Rabe, NM
Steve Dwinnell, FL
Matt Beal, OH
Liza Fleeson, VA
Lois Rossi, US EPA
Dan Gerber, Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, FL

II.   Scope--Topics to be addressed by the Task Force:

- What should be included in a pest management industry bed bug credential?

- Is there a need for additional technician training and/or new certification category(ies)?

- Does the pest management industry need treatment standards? (e.g., healthcare facilities, multi-family housing, schools, college dormitories, hotels, etc.)

- Does the pest management industry need inspection and monitoring standards? Do they need to be specific to sites? Does it need canine inspection standards?

- Does the industry need better information about product efficacy (chemical and non-chemical)? Who should perform and or evaluate the data? NPMA? Others? How should the information be disseminated?

- What policy initiatives should the pest management industry support

    – Product registration (new chemistry, existing chemistry, legacy chemistry)
    – Incentives for the development of new technologies
    – Landlord/tenant relations
    – Bed bug right to know initiatives
    – Research
    – Funding for affordable housing
    – Coordination/collaboration among government agencies/levels/sectors
    – Certification and training
    – Protect consumers from fraudulent products or services

- What research does the industry need? Where will it be performed? How will it be funded?

- Is there a need for outreach or education to commercial and residential customers? (Better coordination of existing resources? Development of new educational materials…brochures, posters, websites, etc.)?

- Industry messaging?

- Does the industry need better data from customers and/or PMPs?

- Customer data that may be included in a new NPMA consumer survey
- PCO data that may be included in the next NPMA/UK global survey

III.   Timeline for Task Force Activities:

- The task force will hold its initial meeting from 4-6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 22nd, at PestWorld 2010 in Hawaii. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the scope of the task force's activities and organize into working groups to address specific areas

- The working groups will meet by teleconference between PestWorld and late November to produce draft deliverables

- The full task force will meet by teleconference by mid-December to act, as appropriate

- The full task force will meet at NPMA's National Bed Bug Forum in January

IV.   Subcommittees (added October 22nd)

1. Best Management Practices, Credentialing, Certification and Training

2. Public Policy

3. Public Outreach, Education, Messaging and Data Needs

4. Research and Efficacy