

Fact Sheet - Pest Management Professional

This fact sheet has been prepared to provide guidance on how to meet the requirements to become a pest management professional as defined by the city ordinance on bed bugs.

What is a pest management professional?

As defined by the city ordinance, a pest management professional is a person who: (i) is licensed, registered or certified by the State of Illinois to perform pest management services pursuant to the Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235; (ii) has attended courses or undergone training for the proper method for the extermination of bed bugs; and (iii) follows National Pest Management Association Best Practices for the extermination of bed bugs.

What is the Structural Pest Control Act?

The Structural Pest Control Act is a state law that establishes minimum standards for pesticide use and establishes a process for the licensure of commercial structural pest control businesses, the registration of persons who own or operate non-commercial structural pest control locations (for example, schools or apartment buildings) where restricted-use pesticides are used, and the certification of pest control technicians. The Act is enforced by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

How does a person become licensed, registered or certified to perform pest management services pursuant to the Structural Pest Control Act?

Commercial structural pest control businesses: A commercial pest control business must obtain a license from the Illinois Department of Public Health. To obtain a license, an applicant must complete an application, obtain a certificate of insurance, and pay the required license fee. The applicant must employ one or more technicians certified to oversee pest control activities. Additional information, including application forms and instructions can be found at: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/structuralpest.htm>.

Non-commercial structural pest control businesses: A non-commercial pest control business must obtain a registration from the Illinois Department of Public Health if they will be using restricted-use pesticides. A list of restricted use pesticides can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>. To obtain a registration, an applicant must complete an application and pay the required registration fee. The applicant must employ one or more technicians certified to apply restricted-use pesticides. The registration only applies to the location where restricted-use pesticides will be applied. Additional information, including application forms and instructions can be found at: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/structuralpest.htm>.

Structural Pest Control Technicians:

For individuals who will be employed at a commercial structural pest control business where only general-use pesticides are used:

To obtain a certificate, an individual must have a high school diploma or GED certificate, must complete an application, must pay a fee required for examination and must take and pass the General Standards exam.

For individuals who will be employed at a commercial or non-commercial structural pest control business where restricted-use pesticides are used:

To obtain a certificate, an individual must have a high school diploma or GED certificate AND must have completed one or more of the following: six months of practical experience in one or more sub-categories of structural pest control; at least 16 semester hours, or their equivalent, in entomology or related fields from a recognized college or university; or a pest control course, approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health, from a recognized educational institution or other entity.

For all other individuals:

Though a certificate is not required for individuals to use general-use pesticides for non-commercial purposes, the bed bug ordinance does require certain individuals to become certified in order to meet the requirements of a pest management professional. This includes property managers and maintenance technicians employed by a landlord or property management company who as part of their job duties would be responsible for managing bed bug infestations. To obtain a certificate, an individual must have a high school diploma or GED certificate, must complete an application, must pay a fee required for examination and must take and pass the General Standards exam.

Additional information about becoming a certified structural pest control technician, including application forms and instructions can be found at:

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/structuralpest.htm>.

Individuals who are not certified may work under the supervision of a certified technician who shall be responsible for their pesticide application.

What are the other requirements in order to meet the definition of a pest management professional?

In addition to meeting any applicable licensing, registration or certification requirements, in order for a business or individual to meet the definition of a pest management professional, they must have had courses or training for the proper methods of managing bed bugs, and they must follow National Pest Management Association Best Practices for the management of bed bugs.

Does the city ordinance stipulate that certain courses or trainings be taken in order to meet the definition of a pest management professional?

No, the ordinance does not stipulate which courses or trainings are to be taken. It also does not establish requirements for the content of such courses or trainings, the amount of time a course or training must be, the verification of participation or successful completion of a course or training, or the frequency at which a course or training needs to be taken. Additionally, there are no rules or regulations to establish any of these requirements. As a result, it is up to the pest management professional to determine which course or training to take, provided the course or training covers methods for managing bed bugs,) and to be able to provide proof of participation in a course or training.

What are the National Pest Management Association Best Practices for the management of bed bugs, and where can they be found?

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) developed and makes available a set of best practices to help pest management professionals control bed bugs. These best practices are available at: <http://www.pestworld.org/all-things-bed-bugs/best-practices/guidelines>.