



News release from OPM

December 17, 2015

The Office of Pest Management (OPM) has received several questions about the differences between the Industrial Institutional/Public Health category license and the Ornamental and Turf category licenses and what type of applications can be performed under the respective categories.

The OPM intends to draft a substantive policy statement in order to provide further clarification on what applications are covered by the respective categories.

The following information is intended to inform you of OPM's policy determination:

Industrial and institutional & Public health certification/license:

This license is acceptable if the purpose of the application is to protect the structure (whether indoors or outdoors) or the occupants of the structure (whether indoors or outdoors). This applies to vertebrate and invertebrate pests. There is no specific maximum distance from the structure to the yard that the licensee needs to follow. However, distance may be a factor OPM considers in determining the purpose of the application.

Additionally, if the purpose of the treatment is to eliminate a public health pest (such as a tick) this license is acceptable whether or not the purpose of the application is to protect a structure.

Ornamental and Turf Certification/License

This license is required if the purpose of the treatment is to protect the yard or the ornamental plants from pests (vertebrate, invertebrate and weeds).

Please note, this is not an official policy and is merely for informational purposes. I will send out a notification when the official policy is published.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Can I use my Industrial License to treat gophers in a yard?

A: Gophers can pose a threat to a structure by eating wiring and drip systems. Additionally gophers can create holes in the ground which pose a danger to the occupants of a structure who may walk upon the ground. Applications intended to protect a structure or its occupants from these threats can be made under an Industrial License.

Q: So, does this mean I can no longer use my Ornamental & Turf license to treat gophers?

A: You can still use an O&T license to treat gophers. While gophers may be a threat to the structure, they are also a threat to the yard.

Q: Suppose there are harvester ants in the yard, but there are no ants threatening the structure? What license do I need?

A: You would need an Ornamental and Turf license or an Industrial license. Harvester ants will eat vegetation in the yard. The O&T license is used to perform treatments to protect the yard and the vegetation. The I&I license can be used for the protection of the inhabitants of the structure. Since people use their yards for recreation, the I & I license could be used to protect the occupants of that structure from being stung by the harvester ants.