



Over the last year, draft exam questions were field-tested across Canada and the US. These questions were then adjusted as necessary based on the field-testing results and on comments from the NAFTA Exam committee. Now that the exam questions are set, the Committee will be meeting this September to determine the pass mark for each version of the exam. Conditions of use of the exam will also have to be developed and communicated to those provinces/states implementing the NAFTA Applicator Core Exam (pilot implementation to start in January 2003).

### Healthy Lawns Strategy

At the request of the Healthy Lawns Working Group (HLWG), WGPETC is enhancing IPM training for landscape applicators. New concepts taken from the IPM Manual for Landscape Pests in BC have been incorporated into the National Standard. These enhancements have been captured either as part of the Applicator Core, a NEW IPM template (which will be used to update all modules) or will be added to the Landscape Module only. The revised IPM section of the Applicator Core and the NEW IPM Template are attached for information. The Landscape module is still under review and targeted for completion by end of 2002.

### Revisions to the National Standard

#### Framework -

We have begun revisions to the Framework including revisions to the recertification section (see briefing note). WGPETC has also agreed to changes to the category definitions and final provincial agreement of these new definitions is pending. These items plus our examination guidelines will be incorporated or referenced in the Framework. The entire Framework will also be reviewed to capture any additional editorial changes. This task is targeted for completion by June 2003.

#### Category Modules -

The Landscape and Structural modules are under priority review and are expected to be completed by end of 2002. Review of the Agriculture and Fumigation modules are scheduled for review next. Other modules are scheduled for the years to come.

### National Aerial Manual

The French version of the National Aerial Pesticide Application Manual is now available through the provincial regulatory agencies and a partial version is also posted on the PMRA website. The process of revising the National Aerial Manual will commence in late 2002.

### Website and Information Sheet

The PMRA website contains a section on education, training and certification which currently includes the National Standard and a partial version of the National Aerial

Manual. WGPETC has been working on updating this section to add information on the WG (e.g., mission and membership), other projects and provincial links. The WG has agreed upon the new structure of the website and draft text for the WGPETC information sheet.

### WGPETC Logo

As the development/revision of Standard is a WGPETC responsibility, the WG has proposed that we create a WGPETC logo to add to the documents of or related to the Standard. This logo would be in addition to the Health Canada, Pest Management Regulatory Agency and FPT logos. The logo would consist of a half maple leaf with WGPETC down the left side of the stem.

### Evaluation Tool

The WG is in the process of finalizing the text and considering the analysis of an evaluation form to assess the effectiveness of applicator training. The evaluation form was developed, based on a US model, to help determine the applicators intentions regarding safe practices after training as opposed to what they were doing before training. The form will first be tested as a pilot project and the results analysed to ensure the evaluation objectives are met. Provinces have agreed to implement these training evaluations to gather this information for use nationally.

### On-Line Learning Project (Industry Certification: A Technology Enhanced Testing Tool)

Assiniboine College, in partnership with the WGPETC, has initiated a research project to develop on-line exams and remedial tutorials for pesticide applicators.

The project team will develop on-line remedial tutorial components for both the Aerial Category and the Applicator Core - based on the National Aerial Manual and the revised Applicator Core respectively. The project team will also develop a on-line Aerial exam and make the finalized NAFTA Applicator Core Exam available on-line. Ensuring security for the administration of these exams will be a key component of this project.

The blueprint of the aerial exam has been completed and the exam questions have been drafted and validated. The exam will now be field-tested and pass mark determined. The applicator core and aerial resources are being compiled and will be integrated into the On-Line tutorials. The project is expected to be completed by March 2003 at which time the WG will evaluate the results of the project and consider use nationally

### 2002/2003 Work Plan

The WGPETC work plan was revised at our 2002 annual meeting and is attached below for information. FPT comments are welcome.