

Section C.8

Aluminum and Magnesium Phosphide for Burrowing Rodent Control Recommended Permit Conditions

Background

In April 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requested that aluminum and magnesium phosphide products for burrowing rodent control be labeled with additional restrictions to protect human health. This included prohibiting use around residential areas and increasing the distance from 15 feet to 100 feet from the application to a building that is, or may be occupied by, humans and/or animals, especially residences. Subsequently, in March 2012, U.S. EPA allowed registrants to amend label and labeling (Applicator's Manual), reinstating outdoor use around residential and other properties, but prohibited use within 100 feet of any building where humans and/or domestic animals do or may reside.

Recommended permit conditions

Because there still may be aluminum and magnesium phosphide products with older labeling lacking the U.S. EPA restrictions in the channels of trade, the following permit restrictions are recommended to ensure that the more restrictive use requirements are applied to all aluminum or magnesium phosphide products for burrowing rodent control.

1. Aluminum and magnesium phosphide must only be used out-of-doors for control of burrowing pests on agricultural areas, orchards, non-crop areas, pastures, rangeland, golf courses, athletic fields, airports, cemeteries, rights-of-ways, earthen dams, parks and recreational areas, other non-residential institutional or industrial sites and on residential or other commercial properties.
2. Use of aluminum and magnesium phosphide is prohibited within 100 feet of any building where humans and/or domestic animals do or may reside on single and/or multi-family residential properties and nursing homes, schools (except athletic fields [application is allowed less than 100 feet to an occupied structure]), daycare facilities, hospitals and other commercial buildings that are regularly occupied.

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Recommended permit conditions
(continued)

3. Prior to use of aluminum and magnesium phosphide products in athletic fields or parks, the applicator shall post a sign at entrances to the site containing the signal word DANGER/ PELIGRO, skull and crossbones, the words: DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE, FIELD NOT FOR USE, the name and EPA registration number of the fumigant.
 4. When aluminum and magnesium phosphide products are used out-of-doors on a site other than an athletic field or park, the applicator shall post a sign at the application site containing the signal word DANGER/PELIGRO, skull and crossbones, the words: DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE, the name and EPA registration number of the fumigant.
 5. The posting signs required in 3 and 4 above must state a 24-hour emergency response number and the contact number of the certified applicator responsible for the application. Signs may be no smaller than 9 inches by 11 inches and must stand at least 18 inches high from the ground. Signs must be made of substantial material that can be expected to withstand adverse weather conditions and all information must be legible. Signs should remain posted for a minimum of 2 days after the final treatment and may be removed by the certified applicator or contracting party.
 6. DO NOT TREAT ANY BURROWS THAT OPEN UNDER OR INTO OCCUPIED BUILDINGS. In addition, check for any other source through which the gas may enter into occupied buildings as a result of application to burrows. If there is any way gas can move through pipes, conduits, etc. from burrows, do not treat these burrows.
 7. Prior to treating a rodent burrow, the certified applicator must provide the property operator or owner with a copy of the Fumigation Management Plan (FMP). An FMP is a written description of the steps designed to plan for a safe, legal, and effective fumigation. The certified applicator and owner of the property to be fumigated must describe the area to be treated and include all safety requirements.
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