



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL  
DIRECTOR

June 24, 2019

Golf Course Name  
Address  
City, State Zip

Dear Michigan Golf Course Representatives,

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (PPMD) is responsible for implementing and enforcing Michigan's pesticide law, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, Part 83 Pesticide Control. Each year, MDARD conducts inspections at golf courses throughout the State to ensure they are in compliance with the law and regulations.

In reviewing historical inspection results from 2016 to 2018, we have found that a significant number of golf courses are not in compliance with Michigan law and regulations. The purpose of this letter is to make golf courses aware of your responsibilities under Michigan's pesticide law and to provide an update of our inspection activities.

When a MDARD inspector arrives to conduct a golf course facility inspection, a list of inspection criteria is reviewed. The purpose of the golf course compliance inspection is to:

- Ensure that all persons conducting pesticide applications on golf course property are properly certified commercial pesticide applicators.
- Ensure that the notification and posting requirements for pesticide use at golf courses are in compliance.
- Ensure that pesticide application records are maintained and complete.
- Ensure that pesticide handling, storage, mixing and loading are in compliance.

The authority and requirements for golf course inspections may be found in Act 451, Part 83, Pesticide Control; Regulation 636, Pesticide Applicators; or, Regulation 637, Pesticide Use.

In the last three years, MDARD inspectors conducted 235 pesticide inspections at Michigan golf course and found 556 violations pertaining to:

- Placards and postings requirements of pesticide applications (62.5%).
- Mix/Load pad requirements (33.6%).
- Specific records are required to be kept of a pesticide application (35.7%).
- Having a drift management plan and annual review of the plan (25.5%).

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- Commercial Applicator certification requirements for applying pesticides (17.4%).
- Following label personal protective equipment (PPE) minimums (12.8%).

MDARD addressed these violations with advisories, warnings, and administrative fines.

Please take this opportunity to familiarize your golf course personnel with regulatory requirements for the commercial use of pesticides in and around golf courses in Michigan.

If you have questions, please contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 and ask for the PPPM Pesticide Inspector covering your county and city.

Sincerely,



John Hill, Interim Pesticide Section Manager  
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

cc: Jeffrey Zimmer, Deputy Division Director