

HOW TO HIRE A PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL [PMP] WHO DOES IPM

A PMP can help your ECE program implement an effective IPM program. Find out if the PMP you hire is knowledgeable about IPM practices. Many PMPs have not had the training or experience required to practice IPM effectively. Below are some questions that can help guide you as you look for a pest control company that can partner with you in starting your IPM program.

1 Identify a PMP with experience in ECE facilities.

Ask colleagues for the names of PMPs who practice IPM and have experience in ECE. Consider hiring only PMPs who have been certified by Ecowise, Green Shield Certified or GreenPro. See *Resources* on page 31 for their websites.

2 Call a few PMPs and ask specifically if they practice IPM.

3 Ask what services are included in the PMP's IPM approach.

Services should include:

- ▶ a thorough inspection of the facility, indoors and outdoors
- ▶ written recommendations that show ways to prevent pests from entering the facility, or how to exclude pests that have become a problem
- ▶ periodic monitoring
- ▶ use of traps or least-toxic pesticides when prevention has failed
- ▶ written service reports

4 Confirm that the PMP understands which services require an ECE director's explicit permission (i.e., application of any pesticides).

5 Ask whether they use indoor or outdoor sprays as part of their IPM services. Routine spraying of pesticides is not part of IPM, except, with your permission, in an emergency situation. Some PMPs assume their customers want routine spraying, so make sure your PMP knows you don't want them to spray.

6 Ask about the qualifications, experience and training of anyone who will work on your site.

All personnel should be trained in IPM practices and must be licensed as PMPs by the State of California. Call DPR for information regarding the status of pest management companies. You can also verify whether a company or an individual has a license issued by the Structural Pest Control Board www.pestboard.ca.gov.

7 Ask for references from the PMP's other clients.

8 Ways to know if your PMP is NOT using IPM. He/she:

- ▶ does not carry a flashlight.
- ▶ is not responsive or communicative.
- ▶ does not use monitoring traps or does not check them.
- ▶ sprays routinely on a regular schedule, whether there are pests present or not.
- ▶ does not ask you where you have seen pests.
- ▶ does not include regular inspections and monitoring as part of the service.
- ▶ does not include recommendations for preventive practices such as sealing or sanitation as part of the services. (It is best if they can help provide some of these services as well.)

