

**Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee
Self-Assessment Questionnaire
Calendar Year 2023**

The Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee has the responsibility to:

- a. gather and provide information to the Commissioner of Agriculture regarding the practice of structural pest control in order to assist the Commissioner of Agriculture and the department in providing excellent customer service to the public and the structural pest control industry;
- b. enhance educational and professional standards of license holders; and
- c. protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

1. In reviewing the committee's body of work for 2023, what do you feel were the major accomplishments of the committee?

I believe the committee's training recommendations continue to streamline the process making it more effective and efficient.

I still feel the major accomplishment of the committee is the progress made regarding the recommendations with regard to the developing training videos.

- ***Working to improve the PSI communications. Sounds like there is still work to be done on the State side but I am hearing there has been some improvement.***
- ***Developing a more define Pesticide Exposure Data from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS)***
- ***Regulation changes with the Technician VTR and adding 40 hours additional training per category.***
- ***How-To YouTube Videos will be a great help for companies. I would like to have a discussion of what topics should be considered by the industry and not just determined by the TDA.***
- ***The discussion and rule changes for the process of Structural Fumigation***

Provided insight and support to TDA staff.

Brought concerns to TDA staff from PMP's for consideration

Helped keep focus enforcement regarding unlicensed PMP's

-Provided Ruling on the increase of business liability insurance to meet today's standards required to operate pest control businesses in the state.

-TDA (Structural Pest Services) starting to build How-To YouTube Videos on how to fill out forms, what's needed to fulfill requirements for an Apprentice/ Technician Training to acquire licenses in specific categories.

Reviewing new and revised regulations and providing input is the most helpful thing we do,

and can do.

Hard for me to comment, joined the committee in the last meeting of 2023.

2. In considering your responsibility as a member of the committee, and considering the issues of structural pest control that the committee is tasked for providing input, would you find it beneficial to have additional training focused on a better understanding of the law and regulations or practices pertaining to structural pest control? If yes, what type of training would be beneficial to enhance your understanding?

I think this is a great idea. With me being from the school side, I would like more training on the commercial side so I have a better understanding of the committee member's perspectives.

I think more detailed training on school pesticide applicators would be helpful.

- ***The TDA has been very responsive to any of my questions or interpretations of Laws and Regs rather by phone or through an email. Not sure what else could be provided.***

Opportunities to review sections of the laws & regs could help the committee be knowledgeable of the wording, process and the intent. We could consider taking a section at a time and discussing at assigned committee meetings. Ask committee / staff if this could be helpful

Yes. I think in today's world, which is constantly changing at such a rapid pace with laws and rules in our industry, the How-To YouTube Videos will be a great asset to pest business operators. (Including videos on the Laws/Rules and Training Pest Practices under Structural)

Not law and regs. New treatment methods and products are of interest.

Yes, perhaps some sort of review of the most broad/relevant topics for those who are new to the committee or are not as informed of key areas relating to structural pest control.

3. What specific types of issues or area of concern related to structural pest control would you like to see addressed going forward?

I would like to see more awareness training at school operations conferences.

No concerns.

- ***I would like to have a discussion regarding the Technician Training Course, Live Sessions vs Virtual. I realize that we are in a technical driven society, but I do not feel the attendees in a virtual setting are comprehending enough of the material. If we continue to allow virtual training then what can we set in place to make sure attendees are not on their phones or being distracted.***

- *Have more discussion on the use of drones for treatment and inspections. I would like to see laws and regs developed in 2024*

Prepare to address the ESA and rodenticide PID items coming forward from EPA.

Survey of licensed Pest Professionals to ask of their top needs and concerns.

Compile our inspector site visit data and brainstorm ways to reduce non compliance. Survey / ask inspectors of their ideas & thoughts

Consider path forward to set up all structural pest control licenses / training events / verifiable training forms, apprentice training, CEU's / training certificate history etc. positioned on a virtual platform housed by the SPCS. Step away from hard copy forms, house individual licensee history on the platform.

-Making sure that Structural Pest Control Licensing Exams have updated, clear visual images that the applicants have to identify in the pest and termite categories. (ALL CATEGORIES)

-Is there any legal way that we can control Pest Control Companies that are sending out interns/employees door to door who are not licensed in pest control in the state of Texas or not licensed at all and are selling pest control services to residents?

-Anytime there is a change in any Laws and Regulations in our industry, what is the protocol of informing licensed individuals and or businesses of the changes implemented. There needs to be an automatic way to alert all licensed individuals and businesses of the changes, i.e snail mail, email or both.

I have a continuing interest in enforcement issues.

N/A

4. What suggestions do you have on how the committee can or should evaluate its effectiveness?

One way I think the committee can evaluate its effectiveness is to collect data and feedback from stakeholders on how the committee's recommendations have impacted the pest management profession.

N/A

- *Yearly I think a survey should go out to all licensed individuals and grade the Advisory Committee. The survey should include not only a grade 1-10 but give the opportunity for comments as well.*

Ask staff if the committee is proving proper service and oversight.

Survey licensed PMP's, IPM coordinators, etc. and ask how committee can serve more efficiently and provide more value.

Surveys could be done through TAMU?

-It would be a good idea at the last Quarterly meeting of the year to have some way to review all the proposed changes that were discussed that year to see which ones got completed and implemented. This would be a good measuring stick of our effectiveness annually.

Revisit our old goal setting exercise and see how we are doing.

Perhaps an open discussion on an annual or semi-annual basis, as well as some form of anonymous feedback from multiple stakeholders.