



## Confidential medical examination form

### Information for examining doctor

Under the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011* (the Regulations), a person must be medically fit to be licenced as a pest management technician. During their employment in the Pest Management Industry, technicians will be exposed daily to a variety of pesticides in poisons schedules 4 to 7. These requirements complement the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations, 2022 on hazardous chemicals.

There is a growing body of evidence that even low-level exposure to some pesticides leads to long term harm when best practice is not followed when handling pesticides. Accidental mishandling of dangerous pesticides can lead to debilitating illness or loss of life for the operator, bystanders and the public.

Typical tasks of pesticide technicians require that the technician is physically fit to:

- work in ceiling spaces and under building crawl spaces if required
- lift and carry up to 15 kg of equipment
- read and understand labels on pesticide containers
- operate hand-held and mechanical spraying equipment
- wear a face-fitted negative pressure (demand) respirator or a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), if required by the product label instructions, or as protection against other hazards (i.e., particulates or other chemicals).

An applicant with any current systemic or focal condition may not be medically fit to work as a pest management technician if there is a concern of sudden medical incapacity or disablement due to:

- a skeletal condition
- a neurological condition
- a respiratory condition
- a metabolic or endocrine condition
- a skin condition – inflamed and broken skin of any cause should be resolved before certifying as fit
- Poor visual acuity - monocular vision may be permissible if there is normal peripheral vision in that eye. If the applicant cannot meet 6/12 or N6 binocular (with correction) then consideration should be given to an optometry referral with subsequent reassessment
- Poor aural acuity - reasonable hearing is required in normal operations, use of radio and in emergencies. Concern about an applicant's hearing ability in the doctor's surgery indicates a pure-tone audiogram and/or an audiology assessment is necessary. An average threshold poorer than 40dB in either ear in the range 0.5 – 2.0 kHz may be disqualifying unless adequate aids are worn.

### Respiratory medical

Any face-fitting, negative pressure respirator (including disposable respirators) imposes an extra burden on cardiac and respiratory systems. Thus, medical assessment should include:

- medical history of cardiac and respiratory disorders, including chronic conditions (emphysema, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and circulatory diseases (heart disease, anaemia)
- Other factors:
  - neurological conditions (epileptic seizures)
  - claustrophobia or other psychological factors
  - facial characteristics and missing teeth, especially when need to fit SCBA with a mouthpiece.
- For fumigators and other technicians who may be required to wear SCBA, physical fitness to wear respirators and support the weight of SCBA or carry up to 30m of an air supply line.
- A lung function test is recommended for all technicians undertaking fumigation treatments. For other pesticide technicians a lung function test may be performed at the discretion of the clinician undertaking the medical assessment. An applicant with an FEV1/FVC ratio <65% will require careful consideration before certifying as fit.



## Confidential Medical Examination Form for Pest Management Technician

### Examining doctor to complete

Applicant details			
Surname:		Given name(s):	
Gender:		Date of Birth:	

I have read the "Information for Examining Doctor" and examined the above applicant in relation to their safety to work as an occupational pest management technician.

I certify that he / she: *(check boxes below)*

Yes No

- is able to perform heavy physical work carrying equipment and work in constricted spaces
- is able to wear a negative pressure respirator or self-contained breathing apparatus
- is able to manage any existing medical condition to safely perform their duties
- is considered fit to be a pest management technician

Date of examination:		
Medical practitioner's signature		
Medical practitioner's name		<b>Medical Practitioner Stamp</b>
Registration/Provider #		
Address:		
Telephone:		
Email:		

**A completed medical assessment may be attached to this form.**

**An electronic copy of this form is available from:**

[Forms and fees for pesticide licensing and business registration](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Application-forms-and-fees-for-pesticide-licencinghealth.wa.gov.au/)

[\(https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Application-forms-and-fees-for-pesticide-licencinghealth.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Application-forms-and-fees-for-pesticide-licencinghealth.wa.gov.au/)

### Department of Health (WA) - Pesticide Licensing

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