



Entomological Reports & Clearance Certificates



Much has been said about who may do inspections and issue Clearance Certificates for properties that have been sold over the years. So let's look at the facts.

The Department of Agricultural Technical Service published a regulation on 15 September 1961 R.658 under the Forrest Act, 1941 (Act No.13 of 1941) titled Regulations for combating and preventing the spread of certain insect pests affecting timber.

The Department of Agriculture tasked its "Division" The Chief, Division of Plant Control and Quarantine of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services to implement control measures. The department promulgated "defined areas" where any outbreak of infestation of European house borer (*Hylotrupes bajalus*) and the Longhorned beetle (*Oxypleurus nodieri*) had to be reported and treated.

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This was where the inspection industry was born under the auspices of the then division of Plant Control and Quarantine. If any of these infestations were found you had to notify the specific departmental inspectors and they would accompany you on your treatment to ensure full eradication of this declared insect.

This regulation was repealed in 1985 when the Department of Agriculture withdrew from this activity making inspections for wood destroying organisms null and void in terms of legislation.

It must be noted that the Department of Agriculture, Act 36 of 1947 accepts no jurisdiction in terms of wood destroying organism inspections but as soon as pesticide treatments are performed in terms of recommendations from these inspections, they will then insist that the pest control operator doing the remedial treatments be registered in terms of Act 36 of 1947 in the registration field of "Supplemental and/or remedial wood treatment" and/or "Fumigation."

Please note that there is no Act of Parliament that requires an inspection or clearance for wood destroying organisms and it only comes into play when an inspection and clearance certificate is stipulated in a deed of sale normally inserted by an estate agent and it therefore comes in as an agreement between the buyer and seller of a property.

So in essence the inspection industry actually does not exist as there are no legal grounds that it is based upon. Please note that there is no legal requirement for inspections or clearance certificates but at Pest Management Academy we would like to advise all people to have their property inspected by suitably qualified persons due to the fact that there are rather large risks involved in issuing clearance certificates, despite the fact that there might be wood destroying organisms present.

Numerous cases have come before the South African courts and every time the magistrate has requested proof of due diligence in the training of the wood destroying organism inspector. Although no formal qualification is necessary in terms of

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legislation, any prospective wood destroying organism inspector would be prudent to complete an accredited training course currently offered by either Pest Management Academy or PCSIB.

Currently the only institutions that are accredited to qualify people in the field of wood destroying organisms are Pest Management Academy and PCSIB who are accredited training providers. Under no circumstances may industry associations be allowed to train or accredit prospective wood destroying organism inspectors as they are not an accredited service provider in terms of the Skills Development Act.

All WDO inspectors qualified by industry associations do not have a qualification as these industry associations are not registered training providers and as such may not issue any certificates to qualify people.

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**PMA COURSES ARE ACCREDITED
BY DEPARTMENT OF
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**FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/
FE07/001**

Oops, we made a mistake...

**In a recent newsletter with
reference to bats, we
inadvertently stated that now
is the time for bat proofing.**

**What we meant to say was
instead of killing bats, we can
now exclude bats from
properties. Please note that
this should ideally be done
only in winter when there are
no pups around that might be
left behind.**

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