

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF PESTICIDE SERVICES
CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, REGISTRATION & TRAINING SECTION**

Guidance Document Number: TBD

Subject: Certification of individuals treating cooling towers or swimming pools

Issue Date: 12/18/2018

Expiration Date: In effect until otherwise rescinded

PURPOSE: Provides guidance to individuals treating cooling towers or swimming pools regarding the requirements for certification or a pesticide business license. Neither the Virginia Pesticide Control Act nor the regulations pursuant to the Act explicitly discuss use of pesticides in cooling towers or swimming pools.

GUIDANCE: 2 VAC 5-680-20 exempts providers of janitorial, cleaning or sanitizing services from the business license requirement if the providers use no pesticides other than sanitizers, disinfectants and germicides. It is the interpretation of the Office of Pesticide Services that this exemption would include those who treat swimming pools and water towers if the only pesticides used are non-restricted use sanitizers, disinfectants and germicides. Neither applicator certification nor a Pesticide Business License is currently required to apply or recommend the use of cooling tower biocides.

Although individuals treating swimming pools and water towers may be exempt from the certification and business licensing requirements, they are still required to use pesticides in a manner consistent with their labels.

Businesses and individuals who apply pesticides to cooling towers or swimming pools may be subject to other local, state and federal laws.

The exemption does not apply to businesses, which sell or distribute sanitizers, disinfectants and germicides.

Authority: 2 VAC 5-680-20.B.4