



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division

James W. Burnette, Jr.
Director

October 2, 2013

Canine Scent Pest Detection - License Requirements

With the resurgence of bed bugs throughout North Carolina and the United States, Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) are staying busy responding to homeowners' calls for inspections and treatment. Because bed bugs are a very small and elusive pest, many (PMPs) are looking into using canine scent pest detection dogs that are trained to sniff out bed bugs. These dog's services are being offered by companies that specialize in using trained dogs. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division has received many questions from citizens who want to know what is required to provide canine scent pest detection services in NC.

The NC Structural Pest Control (SPC) Act of 1955 states that "Structural pest control" means the control of wood-destroying organisms or household pests Including the identification of infestations or infections, the making of inspections, ..." Therefore, for any person or company to do canine scent pest detection for bed bugs in NC, they must:

- 1) Have a "P-phase" Structural Pest Control license or, employ full time, a person who has such a license. Without a SPC license you cannot advertise or offer SPC services in NC.
- 2) Use invoices and documentation bearing the name of the PMP company that is offering and providing their service.
- 3) If the employees wear uniforms, the uniform must bear the name of the structural pest control company.
- 4) Identify vehicles used with the company name or license number.
- 5) Prepare records of their inspection and must be maintained at the PMPs office.
- 6) Work under the supervision of the contracting PMP.

Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division
Structural Pest Control Section ● Phone: (919) 733-6100 ● FAX: (919) 733-0633
Pesticide Section ● (919) 733-3556 ● Fax (919) 733-9796
1090 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1090
www.ncagr.com/str-pest/

An Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer

To become licensed as a Structural Pest Control operator the applicant must:

- A) First obtain a Registered Technician Card while working for a PMP
- B) Be certified in structural pest control.
- C) Have at least 2 years of experience working for a structural pest control operator, in the license phase for which he/she is applying.
- D) Provide an acceptable FBI background check report.
- E) Pass a written structural pest control examination.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division:

Structural Pest Control Section (NC Structural Pest Control Law): 919-733-6100

Pesticides Section (NC Pesticide Law of 1971): 919-733-3556