

Chemical Safety & Occupational Health Protocol

Green House Pest Control considers the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance on Chemical Safety in the Workplace to be the fundamental cornerstone for protecting pest control technicians and clients from both acute and chronic risks associated with chemical substances.

Technical Reference: WHO Chemical Safety Guidance

1. Chemical Risk Assessment

Before any chemical product or pesticide is introduced into the workplace, WHO guidance requires a comprehensive chemical risk assessment that includes:

Identification: Determine the active ingredient and its hazard classification according to the WHO pesticide hazard classification.

Routes of Exposure: Assess the likelihood of exposure through inhalation, skin contact, or accidental ingestion.

Vulnerable Groups: Ensure that the work environment protects individuals at greater risk, such as pregnant women and people with respiratory conditions.

2. Hierarchy of Controls

The World Health Organization adopts a strict hierarchy of controls for managing chemicals in the workplace:

Substitution: Replace highly hazardous chemicals with products that present lower toxicity and greater safety whenever possible (for example, replacing highly hazardous formulations with gel baits or enclosed baiting systems).

Engineering Controls: Ensure adequate ventilation during and after treatment operations and use safe mixing and dilution equipment to prevent spills.

Administrative Controls: Reduce the duration of technician exposure to chemicals and provide continuous training on emergency procedures for spill incidents.



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3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

WHO emphasizes that Personal Protective Equipment represents the final line of defense, yet it is one of the most critical measures for protecting technicians:

Respiratory Protection: Use respirators equipped with activated carbon filters specifically designed for chemical gases and vapours rather than ordinary cloth masks.

Skin and Eye Protection: Wear liquid-impermeable protective coveralls, chemical-resistant gloves made of nitrile or neoprene, and tightly fitting chemical safety goggles.

4. Emergency Response & Spill Management

In accordance with chemical safety requirements, every work site and every service vehicle should be equipped with:

Emergency Washing Facilities: Provide immediate access to clean water for flushing eyes and skin following accidental exposure.

Spill Kit: Carry absorbent materials (such as sawdust or specialized absorbents) to immediately contain pesticide spills and prevent contamination of drains or waterways.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS): Keep the relevant SDS readily available in an accessible location so it can be provided immediately to emergency medical personnel in poisoning incidents, enabling identification of the appropriate antidote and treatment.



