

Setting an industry's standards

Cockroaches and ants, spiders and beetles... there are lots of advertisements on the radio right now about how to give these creepy crawlies the "heave ho" when they invade our homes during the summer months.

Using products bought from a home store may be all very well for an insignificant infestation, but more than that does require the services of a professional pest control firm.

Pest control refers to the regulation or management of a species defined as a pest, usually because it is perceived to be detrimental to a person's health, the ecology or the economy. Many pest control firms operate in the built environment, such as residential homes, hospitals, commercial premises, hospitality outlets, warehouses and storage areas, as opposed to rural locations.

Advising the public about the role of this industry as protectors of food, health and property is the Pest Management Association of New Zealand (PMANZ).

Acting in much the same way as the Motor Vehicle Traders' Association or the Master Builders' Association do for their area of expertise, PMANZ is a volunteer association run by pest managers, for pest managers, with more than 290 members.

The association was formed in 1976 – 40 years ago next year - to provide a unified voice when important issues arose that required the industry's input. An example would be technical advice given to the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee in relation to the use of glueboard traps (and subsequent banning of their use or sale unless approved by the Ministry of Primary Industries), for the capture of rodents and identifying alternatives to glueboard traps for rodent control and monitoring.

The association has also been involved with promoting the review of all pesticides in New



Zealand, as well as providing input to standards and codes of practice for various industries, such as the food and maritime sectors.

From its beginning PMANZ has been a clear, consistently positive voice for the industry, providing support services, consumer information, access to technical information and educational training material for its members. PMANZ membership or evidence of a professional qualification is often used as a means of facility auditing, and contract specification by the client.

It demonstrates that the technician is qualified in pest management and has the relevant expertise for the specific contract. The PMANZ website (www.pmanz.nz) is available to members of the public where they are able to identify professionally qualified technicians within their location and access common pest fact sheets.

A Full Technician member of PMANZ has attained the New Zealand Certificate in Pest Operations (or equivalent), holds current Public Liability Insurance, has an Approved Handler Licence for chemicals and/or Controlled Substances Licence, completed First Aid Training and has a Health & Safety Policy in place.

Many local authorities, companies and government departments now require that pest management companies they employ are members of PMANZ.

The use of the association logo on pest management firms' advertising identifies full membership of a recognised group of professionals whose members provide pest management services carried out safely and efficiently in keeping with good practices, to a code of ethics, as well as maintaining high business standards.

Although there are some significant employers within the sector, the majority of technicians are sole traders, registered one-director companies and franchisees who have completed formal training provided by and through Careerforce and Pacific International Insurance Pty Ltd.

This training meets all the aims of the pest management industry, PMANZ values and expectations and is a means to achieving national standards and industry best practice.

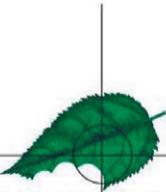
PMANZ investigates and takes appropriate actions in regards to complaints from the public, regulator agencies and other members if the event involves a PMANZ member.

It does not investigate complaints against non-members, but will offer technical advice and guidance if required when the complaint is referred to agencies such as Worksafe or local territorial authorities. 

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