

VA-CIHCS Pest Control Requirement Questions and Answers

VA263-17-Q-0644

1. Question: Are there any limitations on chemicals that can be applied on-site?

Answer: Other than being the low volatility and odor free as possible... I pulled the following section from the VA national Pest Control policy, (**VHA DIRECTIVE 1850.02.**) Link is below.

10. PESTICIDES COMPOUNDED WITH OTHER PRODUCTS

The Chief, Environmental Management Service, must ensure the proper utilization of all products which are compounded with pesticides.

- a. This applies to pesticides formulated and labeled for use as paint additives resulting in a paint-insecticide mixture, which must be applied by certified applicators when used on VA property as required.
- b. This does not apply to the use of paints containing fungicides as mildew inhibitors, or the use of anti-microbial pesticides where application procedures on the label require no special measures.

11. BAN USE OF HERBICIDE 2,4-DICHLOROPHENOXYACETIC ACID

2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2,4-D) is registered with the EPA as a pesticide and is widely used as a selective herbicide. NOTE: However, there is the perception among Veterans that there is a relationship between 2,4-D, Dioxin and Agent Orange. Previous directives have banned the use of 2,4-D on all VA facility grounds.

- a. VHA continues the ban of the selective herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid for use on all VA facility grounds.
- b. Any contracts for grounds or pest management services must fully disclose this ban to the potential provider and the Contracting Officer's Representative must monitor the use of all pesticides used to ensure compliance.
- c. Any and all existing stocks of 2,4-D must be disposed of in an appropriate manner and are not to be used on VA property.

<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/EPS/Directives/1850%2002%202017.pdf>

2. Question: Does the facility want integrated pest management versus treatment with spray?
Answer: The facility wants to use integrated pest management with focus on keeping pests out versus following where they have gotten in. Monthly meetings held with EMS and trouble areas (food service, canteen, engineering). The current vendor sits in on these Monthly meetings to identify trouble areas.
3. Question: Asked about signing/ initialing bait boxes. Paper or electronic preferred?
Answer: Both paper and electronic tracking acceptable. Electronic approved.
4. Question: Are there any lifts available to help get to wasp/ hornet/ pests areas high up?
Answer: No VA equipment provided. Vendors have used poles in the past.
5. Question: Can the vendor store any equipment on site?
Answer: No. There is no space for storage of vendor equipment on site.
6. Question: How frequent and severe are bed-bug occurrences, clinic vs in-patient?

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Answer: Most occurrences are in clinic areas, rarely in in-patient areas. Small occurrences handled by VA EMS with steam/ chemical treatment and vacuums. Vendor used for infestations.

7. Question: (E.1.) Response time for call back?

Answer: If before 1700, response expected same day, if after 1700, then the next day.

8. Question: Is the vendor expected to walk/ service the entire campus weekly? Or come out weekly?

Answer: The vendor is expected to come out weekly with focus on identified trouble areas and trouble areas (kitchen, canteen, Patriot store, primary care, Emergency department, CLC kitchens) identified in the weekly EMS meetings.

9. Question: Can the VA provide improved maps that identify historical trouble areas for planning and forecasting?

Answer: EMS will provide maps to Contract Officer.

10. Question: Does the facility get small animal pests (racoons, squirrels, cats)?

Answer: Yes, feral cats, racoons, and squirrels. Treated in the past with live traps.

11. Question: (D.1.I.) Bird treatment expectation?

Answer: Limited use of nets, and spikes expected. Clear nests when legal.

12. Question: Are pellet guns allowed for pest control on campus?

Answer: No.

13. Question: Are snap and pro bridge type traps allowed?

Answer: Yes. Must be placed discreetly.

14. Question: Is additional/ increased PPE required in certain areas?

Answer: Yes, in the kitchen/ canteen/ food prep areas. Also in sterile areas. VA provides hair/ beard nets. Hats OK substitute. Sterile areas: VA provide scrub gowns, footies, and caps.

15. Question: Will VA COR accompany on all visits?

Answer: For initial walk-through and start-up, and to identify specific/ targeted areas. Vendor expected to operate independently once oriented.

16. Question: Is it OK to use a tanker truck to drive around exterior to spray/ treat the perimeter?

Answer: Yes. Coordinate with COR, COR will then coordinate with Police and Engineering.

17. Question: Is there a process to recommend repairs/ improvements to help with pest areas?

Answer: The COR can submit work orders for repairs that will help in keeping out pests and support IPM.

18. Question: If spraying in limited access utility areas (crawl spaces, maintenance/ utility areas), can VA staff clean bugs to assist in monitoring repeat activity?

Answer: Yes. The VA can assist if coordinated.

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19. Question: Spider web removal?

Answer: Yes, when you see it and they are identified by exception (weekly meeting).