




Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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April 24, 2007

Please Respond to:
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MEMORANDUM NO. 808

TO: Pest Control Licensees

FROM: Michael J. Page, Chief 
Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control

SUBJECT: Agency Position: Identification Cardholders Associated With Home Inspection Companies

This memorandum is to clarify and set forth the Department's position as it relates to certain activities that occur when performing wood-destroying organisms (WDO) inspections in close association with home inspections.

There are certain business activities conducted by unlicensed home inspection companies that may place the licensee, pest control identification cardholder and the home inspection company in violation of the "Structural Pest Control Act", Chapter 482, Florida Statutes.

Please note the following:

1. An unlicensed home inspection company may not advertise that they perform WDO inspections. This includes individuals who own or work for an unlicensed home inspection company and carry a valid pest control identification card with a licensed pest control company. Accordingly, this pertains to all forms of advertising, including telephone directories, Internet, newspapers, radio and television.
2. Monies received from a customer for performing a WDO inspection must be deposited into a bank account belonging to the licensed pest control business.
3. An unlicensed home inspection company may not solicit or seek to obtain business related to the performance of WDO inspections. It is considered contrary to the requirements of law for a customer contacting a home inspection company to be solicited for a WDO inspection.



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4. A home inspection company may not be considered the customer requesting a WDO inspection by deliberately inserting themselves between the initial outside customer (requestor) and the licensed pest control business.

5. The price charged to a customer for performing a WDO inspection should be established by the licensed pest control company.

It appears that unlicensed home inspection companies attempting to legally perform WDO inspections often fall out of compliance by allowing WDO inspections to become too tightly intertwined with their home inspection business. **Separation** between home inspections and the performance of pest control is important to being in compliance with the law. A legal business model provides for a direct relationship between the customer/consumer and the licensed pest control business. Placing the unlicensed home inspection business into the middle of this relationship causes the matter to become convoluted and often out of compliance with the statute.

Home inspection companies that desire to perform WDO inspections are encouraged to seek the services of a full time certified pest control operator and obtain the appropriate state pest control business license.

If you have any questions concerning the content of the memorandum, please contact this office at 850-921-4177.

MJP/bk