

EPA Office of Inspector General Launches Internal Investigation on Structural Fumigants

Friday October 9, 2015 the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans for an internal preliminary investigation of adverse impacts related to structural fumigation treatments. The OIG will specifically investigate EPA's implementation of regulatory mechanisms and procedures for training, funding, enforcement, etc., pertaining to structural fumigation treatments.

The OIG is an independent agency within EPA tasked with performing audits, evaluations, and investigations of EPA and its contractors, to promote efficiency, and to prevent/detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

As part of the investigation, OIG will conduct interviews with staff at EPA headquarters, in specific regions, and with state regulators with no set timetable for completion. A copy of a letter sent by OIG to EPA Assistant Administrators Cynthia Giles and Jim Jones can be found [here](#).

As your representative of the structural pest management industry, NPMA will continue to take the lead on structural fumigation issues as it relates to public policy and public relations.

NPMA and its sister organization, PPMA, are charged with advocating for the industry and providing up-to-date information, ongoing education, stewardship and training for pest management professionals and regulators at the state and federal level. Specifically related to the structural fumigation issue, NPMA has proactively:

- Provided a multi-day workshop for two dozen federal and state regulators;
- Conducted numerous meetings and communication with EPA and Canadian PMRA;
- Petitioned EPA for increased stakeholder involvement to promote greater stewardship, better training, enhanced certification requirements and improved labels;
- Organized fumigation training in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, planned for December 2015;
- Planned enhanced structural fumigation information for its consumer information website;

NPMA understands the value and importance of structural fumigants to the pest management industry, and we will continue to provide information and support to our member companies. In addition to assisting our members, we will continue to provide leadership and correct information to industry allies, regulators and when necessary the media. We ask that you forward all media or public relations related questions and/or concerns to Cindy Mannes cmannes@pestworld.org, and technical or regulatory questions and/or concerns to Jim Fredericks jfredericks@pestworld.org.

