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## PREFACE

Federal and state regulations establish general and specific standards that you must meet before you can use certain pesticides. This training manual contains basic information to help you meet the general and specific standards for applicators who are engaged in pest control in, on or around structures and grounds of schools that provide education for classes kindergarten through twelfth grade, Category 7d. It does not, however, meet the requirements for licensing of pest control operators under the Louisiana Structural Pest Control Law.

Ever since we have had homes, they have been invaded by insects and rodents. These same pests have constantly raided our food, during both production and storage. We have fought a constant battle to protect our homes and food supply from these pests. When chemical control (pesticides) became available, it became the most efficient means yet devised to control most pests.

The use of pesticides is necessary to protect our homes and food. The correct use of pesticides is critical, particularly around children, the sick and aged, and in places where food is prepared, packaged or stored. Most industries and institutions (such as schools and hospitals) are inspected for sanitation by one or more state, federal or local agencies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as well as their counterparts at state and municipal levels, are all concerned with the use of pesticides. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is the responsible agency for pesticide regulations in Louisiana.

