



AzPPO wins another battle against governmental over reach December 2016

As the current President of AzPPO I'm often asked what does AzPPO really do for the industry.

Much of the work done behind the scenes to protect the industry goes quite unnoticed as your board and legislative committee regularly meet with representatives of the The Pest Management Division (PMD) of the Department of Ag to discuss issues affecting the Pest Management Industry.

Due to the goodwill exhibited by the Department and the AzPPO board this is rarely dramatic as we are able to resolve these issues without a lot of fan fare.

While I certainly prefer this relationship it also creates a lack of awareness among our members who are frequently unaware of the fine work being done by your board and legislative committee members Stu Keenan and Kevin Etheridge.

Recently our lobbyist Courtney LeVinus received an email from one of our members, Dena Berg from Northwest Exterminating in Tucson, concerning an issue which had occurred with the Pima County Health Department.

Northwest had performed a thorough cleanout for German Cockroaches in a restaurant. One of the products they used in the clean out was an insecticidal dust formulation. The application was performed according to label and was done legally and professionally. In spite of this the inspector had ordered all dust applied in the attic space to be cleaned up citing FDA code which does not allow Tracking Powder to be used in restaurants.

As we all know insecticidal dust is clearly not a tracking powder but the Health Department was not seeing it that way. Courtney reached out to the board and we suggested she contact the PMD to reach out to the Pima County Health Department to explain the differences between the two products.

Mr. Vince Craig was quite accommodating and reached out, but his attempts were initially to no avail. At this point Vince requested a meeting with representatives of the Health Department, himself, representatives of Northwest and representatives of AzPPO.

On Nov. 10 Vince, Ken Fredrick (AzPPO board member) myself, and representatives of Northwest (including owner Chad Berg) met with the Pima County Health Department representatives.

Although we did our best to make the case on the differences between the two products they were largely unmoved but did agree to suspend enforcement on this issue until they could receive a ruling from the FDA in Washington since the written FDA code does not clearly define a tracking powder.

Within two weeks we received e-mail conformation from the Pima County Health Department that when FDA does not define a pesticide, EPA's definition stands and EPA defines a tracking powder as designed to control rodents rather than insects.

While this may not sound like a big victory, we were able explain and prevail on our position with a governmental agency, which had this gone statewide would have simply removed a valuable tool from the tool box of all PMPs servicing food handling establishments.

To quote Dena Berg from Northwest "Thanks for attending the meeting with Pima County representing AzPPO- Southern Chapter. This was a challenging situation but so unnecessary as I'm sure you could see. It does show, however, the support the industry can provide when dealing with these types of scenarios. Northwest had not had to call on that support as an individual company until this time, and it was HIGHLY APPRECIATED."

I would like to thank Vince Craig from the PMD for his stellar efforts on this as well as Ken Fredrick for his help as well.

It's an honor to serve as this year's President of AzPPO. Your board and committee members have shown a great passion to protect your industry and allow us all to continue improving the lives and health of our clients.

Thank You
Tim Goeringer
President AzPPO