Industry Alert: Pest Strip Use in Food and Feed Establishments

Michigan Department of AGRICULTURE & Rural Development
www.michigan.gov/mdard

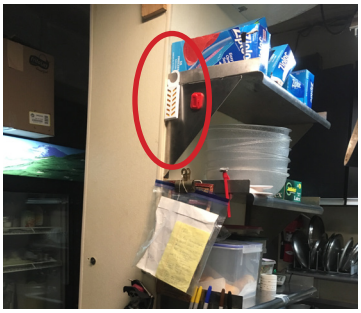
Does your food or feed establishment use "pest strips" to control flies or other insects?

Pest strips are used to kill insects for up to four months by slowly releasing a colorless, odorless vapor called dichlorvos into an enclosed space. Dichlorvos is an organophosphate pesticide that impacts the brains and nerves of insects. Exposure to vapor from pest strips can cause neurological, respiratory, and gastrointestinal symptoms in humans.

Due to their potentially harmful nature, pest strips are highly regulated, and directions on product labels must be followed. State and federal laws require that pesticides used in food and feed establishments must be labeled for use in such establishments, and users are required to follow label directions. However, inspectors throughout Michigan are finding food and feed establishments using pest strips in prohibited locations, as shown in the images here. Establishments are responsible for ensuring pest strips are properly used in their business, even if these strips are provided by a supplier or pest control company. Pest strips are intended for use in enclosed spaces where people will not be present for more than four hours at a time. Dichlorvos pest strips **CANNOT** be used in certain locations, including but not limited to:

- Areas where people are present for extended periods of time.
- Areas where food is prepared or served.
- Food/feed areas of food/feed processing or manufacturing establishments.
- Areas where food/feed is received, stored, packed (e.g., canning, bottling, bagging, wrapping, boxing), or prepared.
- Edible waste storage areas.
- Enclosed food/feed processing systems (e.g., mills, dairies, edible oils, syrups).

Pest strip with yellow center (may occur in other colors)



What to do to assure proper pest strip use:

READ THE LABEL:

Pest strips must be used according to their label instructions. If you find an unwrapped pest strip at your facility that is not approved for use in a food establishment or in a location not allowed by the product label, immediately dispose of the strip in a covered trash can away from food and feed areas. Check disposal and handling directions on the label to see if special protective measures are required. Generally, you should avoid contact with skin and wash with soap and water after handling the strip.

REPORT MISUSE:

If a pest control company placed the pest strip in a location not allowed by the product label, contact MDARD's Food and Dairy Division or Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division at 800-292-3939 to report the incident.