

Ryan F. Quarles  
Commissioner



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# Kentucky Department of Agriculture

April 22, 2020

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On March 6, 2020, the Governor issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-215 declaring and instituting a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The spread of the coronavirus causing COVID-19 presents a serious and immediate threat to public health, safety, and welfare. The coronavirus can spread through contamination of surfaces where the virus can reside until coming into contact with a person.

Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 217B requires commercial applicators of pesticides to pass a US EPA-mandated certification examination and obtain a commercial applicator license prior to engaging in the commercial application of pesticides.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has, as a matter of long-standing interpretation, not considered the use of EPA-designated general use public health products for routine cleaning and sanitation of surfaces to be a commercial application of pesticides that would be subject to the licensing requirements of KRS Chapter 217B. To construe the licensing requirement otherwise could, for example, require janitors and other professional cleaning staff to obtain a commercial applicator license for purposes not reasonably contemplated by Chapter 217B.

During the existing COVID-19 State of Emergency, the need for and importance of surface sanitation has increased dramatically. To ensure that adequate cleaning and sanitation services are available to combat the spread of COVID-19, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture issues this clarification and guidance: Persons using the above referenced products for cleaning and sanitizing are not required to obtain a license or pass a certification examination before they may apply such products in the Commonwealth.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Feldman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dana Feldman  
Executive Director  
Office for Consumer and Environmental Protection