



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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STRUCTURAL PEST INSPECTOR EXAMINATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to pass two exams in order to qualify for the Structural Pest Inspector (SPI) license. There is a 100-question general knowledge exam and a 50-question practical exam. Although WSDA does provide magnifying lenses for the practical exam, you are encouraged to bring your own high quality hand lens. As with other WSDA exams, the passing score for both exams is 70%.

The study material for the exam is the **Structural Pest Inspector Training Manual** (Publication Number EM013). It is available from Washington State University's Bulletins Office at 1-800-723-1763 or on-line at <http://pep.wsu.edu/studymaterials/>.

If you obtained study material prior to implementation of the revised SPI exams on August 1, 2007, you may find them lacking for the new exam and are encouraged to purchase the new manual. The old study material includes the following:

- **Pest Management Study Manual for Pest Control Operators** (WSU Publication EM 019).
Note: Study sections 1 through 6 and section 12.
- **A Key to Identification of Pacific Northwest Wood-Destroying Pests Based on Wood Damage** (WSU Extension Bulletin 1814). Be able to recognize the symptoms and signs of these pests. *Note: The key is included on pages 69 – 74 of the new manual.*
- **Rules Relating to Wood Destroying Organisms, WAC 16-228-2005 through WAC 16-228-2060** (if not enclosed, go to <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/docs/WdoRules.pdf>).
Note: The rules are included on pages 77-80 of the new manual.

There are many other excellent resources on wood destroying organisms (WDOs) and inspection criteria. Following are some examples:

Handbook of Pest Control by Arnold Mallis, editor (2003)

National Pest Control Association Field Guide to Structural Pests by Eric Smith and Richard Whitman (1992)

Scientific Guide to Pest Control Operations, Lee Truman, Gary Bennett, William Butts (1976)

Urban Entomology by Walter Ebeling (1975)

In addition, there are numerous resources available on the Internet regarding WDOs, structural pest inspections, and building construction. Use caution when viewing these web pages; usually no independent source has reviewed them for accuracy. Use keywords such as “wood destroying organism” or “structural pest inspection” to view these Internet sites.

If you have any questions, you may contact Pesticide Licensing toll free at (877) 301-4555.