



# Global Pest Management Coalition Reviewing Recommendations for Global Standards

Ensuring excellence and consumer confidence in the pest management industry

Allison Allen & Alberto Ponjoan

**T**he global pandemic and everything that has happened as a result could never have been predicted. One of the positive outcomes of people staying home around the world is a rare opportunity to come together virtually and accomplish great things. Global Pest Management Coalition's (GPMC) Global Standards Task Force has done just that.

The GPMC's mission is to provide a unified voice across the globe promoting the value of pest management in ensuring the protection of health, home, food and businesses. One of the needs identified by the Global Coalition was a template for professionalism that could be used in countries that do not have established rules governing the pest management industry. In October 2019, the Global Coalition created a task force to create standards that can be accepted all around the globe that will enable the Global Coalition members to promote legislation in their countries and professionalize the pest management industry around the world.

The task force, chaired by Alberto Ponjoan (Spain), was made up of individuals with viewpoints from the US, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Germany, India, China, and the UK. The group met every week for a few months and moved the project to completion faster than anyone had predicted. Finding consensus was a surprisingly smooth process. Based on existing models and everyone's experience, all quickly agreed that the standards need to have requirements that define:

- Levels of qualifications that distinguish where an individual is in his or her career,
- Minimum training to reach a level,
- Continuous training and re-certification to maintain the level, and
- Competency or experience to attain each level.

The result is a framework that has requirements for companies and their service documentation; three levels for individuals to progress to or through in their career; and a Master Level that is a distinction granted by an Association to

those subject matter experts who put personal affiliations aside and cooperate for the greater good of the industry.

The first level is designed for the technician who has his or her own route. The second level is for experienced team leaders who are specializing in at least one line of service, managing people, and helping the company with operations. The third level is for company owners and technical directors. Under the proposed framework, every company must employ at least one Level Three. The system in its entirety ensures companies are professional and individuals are prepared to do our important work with the knowledge and experience they need.

Another major accomplishment of the task force, thanks in great part to task force member Frank Hertel of Frank Hertel Engineering (Germany), is the detailed example of a specialty area (part of level two). The task force's recommendations include detailed experience, testing, and maintenance requirements for those using fumigants or controlled atmospheres.

"I am very proud of the work of the Global Standards Task Force. It was encouraging to find how much we were aligned globally on the basics of what our industry need from professional pest management companies and their employees. I hope these standards serve as a helpful reference for countries that have systems in place and, more importantly, help Global Coalition members to promote legislation in their countries that helps the industry," says Ponjoan.

The recommendations of the task force are now being circulated for comment. To preview the standards and add your comments, e-mail [aallen@pestworld.org](mailto:aallen@pestworld.org). We welcome all to learn more about the Global Pest Management Coalition at [www.pestmanagementcoalition.org](http://www.pestmanagementcoalition.org). ■

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