THE FOLLOWING MEMO DOES NOT APPLY TO PRIVATE APPLICATOR LICENSEES

Dear Winemaking Licensees:

WSDA would like to make you aware of a proposed change to our pesticide licensing categories. We are considering adding a new license classification in the General Pesticide Rules (WAC 16-228) called “Limited Specialty”. Current endorsements with low numbers of licensees would fall under this new classification. However, licenses and the database will still keep track of specific specialty as a sub-category.

You are receiving this memo because we are creating and endorsement for sulfur dioxide fumigation of wine barrels and corks. This new endorsement will fit under the “Limited Specialty” category.

For those that already have a pesticide license for use of sulfur dioxide gas on wine corks/barrels and are in a current recertification cycle, you WILL be grandfathered in and will NOT need to take the new exam. If this rule change is adopted, any new licensees or current licensees who do not get enough credits to recertify would need to take the new exam. For example, those who had taken Laws and Safety and the Fumigant category because we did not have a good fit at the time will NOT need to take the new category. The exam we are developing is short (around 30 questions) and based off of a mock pesticide label. There is no required study manual.

We recognize that vineyards and wineries are set up in a variety of ways and therefore do not all obtain the same licensing. Those who hold the Private Applicator license will NOT need to take the new exam.

While this change would only have a small effect on you as a licensed applicator, it will have a large benefit to our Department’s efficiency. The “Limited Specialty” category will allow us to quickly implement new exams when industry develops new tools and methods for pest control. Currently, we have to go to rule – which takes several months- before we can develop or institute new exam categories or issue licenses in those new categories. We are in the process of creating an exam for treatment of post-harvest fruits and vegetables that will fall under the “Limited Specialty” category as well.

We are still in the beginning stages of this potential rule change. Currently, we have submitted a “pre-proposal” which states our intent to pursue a rule change. The proposal that includes the actual language of the new rule will be posted in late August for public comments/suggestions. We will send out notice when this happens so that you may comment if you wish to. If the rule change is adopted, it would not become effective until mid-November.

Any comments on the attached Pre-Proposal Statement can be submitted in writing to:

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Pesticide Management Division
Washington State Dept. of Agriculture
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Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process.