

APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES USING DRONES TO CONTROL STINGING INSECTS

May 2025

Using a drone to apply pesticides represents a new method of aerial application for Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). The PMRA considers drones, also called "Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems" or a "remotely controlled aircraft"— to be an aircraft.



Current approvals

Restricted class biological larvicides containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*) or *Lysinibacillus sphaericus* (*Lsph*) have been approved for application using a drone since the fall of 2022. The PMRA has determined that these active ingredients pose an acceptable risk to human health and the environment without any additional drone-specific data.

The following products containing *Bti* or *Lsph* are registered to control stinging insects using drones:

- VectoBac 200G (registration number: 18158).
- VectoBac 1200L (registration number: 21062).
- VECTOLEX CG (registration number: 28008).
- VectoBac FG+ (registration number: 34734).

The labels of products approved for drone application bear the words "Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems" or "RPAS". If these terms are not on their label, they are not authorized for drone application.

Instructions for use, restrictions and risk reduction measures related to drone application are included on the label of these products.

For more information, please consult the [Information Note Regarding the Use of Drones when Applying Pesticides](#), produced by the PMRA.

Required permits and certificates

In Québec, using a drone to apply pesticides requires having:

- a Subclass C1 or D1 permit, "Aerial Application"
- in addition to a drone pilot certificate, a Subclass CD1 certificate, "Certificate for Aerial Application", or to work, on the premises where the activity is carried out, under the supervision of the holder of such certificate.

The Subclass C9 or D9 permit, "Application for Control of Stinging Insects", and the Subclass CD9 certificate, "Certificate for Application for Control of Stinging Insects", are required to apply pesticides, other than by aircraft, in an aquatic environment, to destroy the larvae of stinging insects, or in the atmosphere, to control adult stinging insects.

For more information, refer to:

- [Permit for the sale and use of pesticides](#) (in French only)
- [Certificate for the sale and use of pesticides](#)
- [Drone safety](#) (Transport Canada).

Regulatory requirements

The Pesticides Management Code provides specific requirements for aircraft. Holders must comply with these requirements to control stinging insects using a drone.

For more information, please refer to [Pesticides Management Code Reference Guide](#) (in French only).

Ministerial authorization

Work involving the application, by land or aircraft, of a larvicide in a body of water with a surface outlet into a hydrographic network, is subject to ministerial authorization. This must be obtained before the work is carried out.

For more information, please see [Controlling biting or stinging insects](#).

Failure to comply with regulatory requirements is subject to sanctions.

For more details, please visit [Québec.ca](#).

Do you have any questions? Use the [inquiry form](#) (link in French only).

The information contained in this document does not cover all aspects of regulation, and in no way replaces the regulatory texts published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.