

40-21-2-.01 Commercial Applicators.

Commercial applicators may be certified in one or more of the following categories:

- (a) Agricultural Plant Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides or State restricted pesticide uses in production of agricultural crops, including, without limiting the foregoing, tobacco, peanuts, cotton, feed grains, soybeans, and forage, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits and nuts, as well as on grasslands and noncrop agricultural lands.
- (b) Agricultural Animal Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, on animals, including, without limiting the foregoing, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, poultry and livestock, and to places on or in which animals are confined; and also includes Doctors of Veterinary Medicine engaged in the business of applying pesticides for hire, publicly holding themselves out as pesticide applicators, or engaged in large-scale use of pesticides.
- (c) Forest Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, in forests, forest nurseries, and forest seed producing areas.
- (d) Ornamental and Turf Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, to control pests in the maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, and turf.
- (e) Seed Treatment. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, on seeds.
- (f) Aquatic Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of any restricted use pesticide, or State restricted pesticide uses, purposefully applied to standing or running water, excluding applicators engaged in public health related activities included in category (i) below.
- (g) Right-of-Way Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, in the maintenance of public roads, electric powerlines, pipelines, railway rights-of-way or other similar areas.
- (h) Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related Pest Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, in, on, or around food handling establishments, human dwellings, institutions, such as schools and hospitals, industrial establishments, including warehouses and grain elevators, and any other structures and adjacent area, public or private; and for the protection of stored, processed, or manufactured products.
- (i) Public Health Pest Control. This category includes State, Federal or other governmental employees using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance.
- (j) Regulatory Pest Control. This category includes State, Federal or other governmental employees who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, in the control of regulated pests.
- (k) Demonstration and Research Pest Control. This category includes:
 - 1. individuals who demonstrate to the public the proper use and techniques of application of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, or supervise such demonstration, and includes such persons as

extension specialists and county agents, commercial representatives demonstrating pesticide products, and those individuals demonstrating methods used in public programs.

2. persons conducting field research with pesticides, and in doing so, use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides; and also includes State, Federal, commercial and other persons conducting field research on or utilizing restricted use pesticides.

3. to be certified in Demonstration and Research would require prior certification in one or more of categories (a) through (j), above.

(l) Aerial Methods. This category includes individuals who have been licensed by the FAA for Agricultural Aircraft Operations, and who are certified in one or more of the categories (a) through (j), and (o).

(m) Wood Treatment. This category includes Commercial Applicators engaged in the business of pressure treating lumber and timber with preservatives classified as restricted use pesticides, to protect such products from attack by such pests as termites, powder post beetles, other wood destroying insects, as well as, surface molds and wood destroying fungi.

(n) Antimicrobial Pest Control. This category includes Commercial Applicators who apply pesticides (Disinfectants, Sanitizers, Algaecides, Fungicides, etc.) to control undesirable or harmful algae, bacterial, fungi and viruses in homes, institutions, medical facilities, industrial and other sites.

(o) Agricultural Commodity Fumigation. This category includes Commercial Applicators applying or supervising the application of fumigants to control insect pests in raw or processed agricultural commodities.

(p) Antifoulant Paints. This category includes Commercial Applicators who are applying antifouling paints that have been classified for restricted use to watergoing vessels to inhibit the growth of aquatic organisms such as barnacles and algae.

(q) Worker Protection Standard. This subcategory is for those engaged in training workers and handlers as required by EPA's Worker Protection Standard.

(r) Mosquito Control. This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides, or State restricted pesticide uses, in the control of mosquitoes on residential, commercial and public grounds.

40-21-3-.01 Commercial Applicators. Amended.

Every applicant for commercial applicator certification shall demonstrate a practical knowledge of the principles and practices of pest control and the safe use of pesticides based upon satisfactory passing of a written examination with a score of seventy (70) percent, and, as appropriate, performance testing. Such examination shall include the general standards of competency applicable to all categories and additional standards specific for each category or subcategory in which the applicant requests certification. Any particular examination may not be taken more than once in any month or more than twice in any six (6) month period. Records of examination scores on the General Standards and Category Standards shall be maintained by the Department of Agriculture for one (1) year from the date of first examination. If an applicant fails to pass both the General Standards Examination and at least one (1) Category Standards Examination within a one (1) year period, all test scores will be destroyed and applicant will be required to retake and pass both the General Standards Examination and the Category Standards Examination. To the extent that they are relevant to a given category, standards of competency may include:

(a) General Standards for all Categories.

1. Label and Labeling Comprehension:

- (i) The general format and terminology of pesticide labels and labeling;
- (ii) The understanding of instructions, warning, terms, symbols and other information commonly appearing on pesticide labels;
- (iii) Classification of the product, general or restricted; and
- (iv) Necessity for use consistent with the label.

2. Safety-Factors including:

- (i) Pesticide toxicity and hazard to man and common exposure routes;
- (ii) Common types and causes of pesticide accidents;
- (iii) Precautions necessary to guard against injury to applicators and other individuals in or near treated areas;
- (iv) Need for and use of protective clothing and equipment;
- (v) Symptoms of pesticide poisoning;
- (vi) First aid and other procedures to be followed in case of a pesticide accident; and
- (vii) Proper identification, storage, transport, handling, mixing procedures and disposal methods for pesticides and used pesticide containers, including precautions to be taken to prevent children from having access to pesticides and pesticide containers.

3. Environment—The potential environmental consequences of the use and misuse of pesticides as may be influenced by such factors as;

- (i) Weather and other climatic conditions;
- (ii) Types of terrain, soil or other substrate;
- (iii) Presence of fish, wildlife and other nontarget organisms; and
- (iv) Drainage patterns.

4. Pests—Factors such as:

- (i) Common features of pest organisms and characteristics of damage needed for pest recognition;
- (ii) Recognition of relevant pests; and
- (iii) Pest development and biology as it may be relevant to problem identification and control.

5. Pesticides-Factors such as:

- (i) Types of pesticides;
- (ii) types of formulations;
- (iii) Compatibility, synergism, persistence and animal and plant toxicity of the formulations;
- (iv) Hazards and residues associated with use;
- (v) Factors which influence effectiveness or lead to such problems as resistance to pesticides; and
- (vi) Dilution procedures.

6. Equipment-Factors including:

- (i) Types of equipment and advantages and limitations of each type; and
- (ii) Uses, maintenance and calibration.

7. Application Techniques-Factors including:

- (i) Methods of procedure used to apply various formulations of pesticides, solutions, and gases, together with a knowledge of which technique of application to use in a given situation;
- (ii) Relationship of discharge and placement of pesticides to proper use, unnecessary use, and misuse; and
- (iii) Prevention of drift and pesticide loss into the environment.

8. Laws and Regulations—Applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, including the legal responsibility for supervision of uncertified persons.

(b) Category Specific Standards.

1. Agricultural Plant Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

(I) crops grown in operational area;

(II) specific pests to be controlled;

(III) soil and water problems;

(IV) pre-harvest intervals;

(V) reentry intervals;

(VI) phytotoxicity;

(VII) potential for environmental contamination, non-target injury and community problems arising from use of pesticides in agricultural areas.

2. Agricultural Animal Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

(I) animals to be treated;

(II) specific pests to be controlled;

(III) specific pesticide toxicity and residue potential;

(IV) relative hazards associated with formulation, application techniques, age of animals, stress and extent of treatment.

3. Forest Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

(I) forests, forest nurseries and forest seed production;

(II) pests to be controlled;

(III) cyclic occurrence of certain pests;

(IV) specific population dynamics as a basis for programming pesticides applications;

(V) relative biotic agents and their vulnerability to pesticides applied;

(VI) control methods which will minimize unintended effects on wildlife;

(VII) proper use of specialized equipment as it may relate to meteorological factors and adjacent land use.

4. Ornamental and Turf Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

(I) pesticide problems associated with production and maintenance of ornamental trees, shrubs, plantings, and turf;

(II) potential phytotoxicity to a wide range of plant material;

(III) pesticide drift;

(IV) pesticide persistence beyond period of pest control;

(V) application methods which will minimize or prevent hazards to humans, pets and other domestic animals.

5. Seed Treatment:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

(I) types of seeds commonly requiring protection from pests in operational area;

(II) requirements for seed coloration and special labeling;

(III) carriers and surface active agents which influence pesticide binding and may affect germination;

(IV) hazards associated with handling, sorting and mixing;

(V) potential misuse of treated seed such as introduction into food and feed channels;

(VI) proper methods for disposal of unused treated seed.

6. Aquatic Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

- (I) various water use situations and potential for downstream effects;
- (II) secondary effects from improper application rates, incorrect formulations and faulty application of pesticides;
- (III) potential effects of pesticides on plants, fish, birds, beneficial insects and other organisms present in aquatic environments;
- (IV) principles of limited area application.

7. Right-of-Way Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

- (I) a wide variety of environments including waterways;
- (II) problems arising from runoff, drift, and excessive foliage destruction;
- (III) target pests to be controlled;
- (IV) nature of herbicides and need for their containment in area to which applied;
- (V) impact of application on adjacent areas and communities.

8. Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

- (I) wide variety of pests and their life cycles;
- (II) types of formulations appropriate for their control;
- (III) methods of application which will avoid contamination of food, damage and contamination of habitat and exposure of people, pets and other animals;
- (IV) other factors such as continuous exposure, which may lead to a hazardous condition for babies, children, pregnant women and the elderly;
- (V) environmental conditions related to activities within this category.

9. Public Health Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

- (I) vector-disease transmission as it relates to and influences pesticide application;
- (II) life cycles and habitats as a basis for strategy in control of a wide variety of pests;
- (III) wide variety of environments ranging from enclosed structures to streams;
- (IV) importance and use of non-chemical methods such as sanitation, drainage and waste disposal.

10. Regulatory Pest Control:

(i) Practical knowledge of:

- (I) applicable laws relating to quarantine and regulations of pests;
- (II) regulated pests;
- (III) potential environmental impact of pesticides used in suppression and eradication programs;
- (IV) factors influencing introduction, spread and population dynamics of relevant pests;
- (V) variations among different geographic areas which would permit valid individual judgments to be made in new situations where emergency measures may be invoked to control regulated pests.

11. Demonstration and Research:

(i) This category is considered to be an add-on and would require prior certification in one or more of categories 1. through 10. of this section (b). Since this category covers demonstration of the safe and effective use of pesticides to other applicators and the public it would also require:

- (I) knowledge of broad spectrum of pesticide uses;
- (II) pesticide—organism interactions;

(III) knowledge of importance of integrating non-chemical methods of pest control with pesticide use.

12. Aerial Methods:

(i) This category is considered to be an add-on and would require prior certification in one or more of categories 1. through 10. of this section (b). To be certified in this category, applicant would be required to show proof of compliance with the requirements of Title 14, CFR, Part 137 (Agriculture Aircraft Operations). Applicant would also demonstrate by passing of a written examination a practical knowledge of:

- (I) aerial application equipment including pesticide dispersal accessories, their operation and calibration;
- (II) flight safety requirements for protection of the public including flight patterns, swath marking, turnaround and obstructions;
- (III) personal safety precautions necessary for protection of pilot and ground personnel including flagmen and loading personnel.

13. Mosquito Control:

(i) Practical Knowledge of:

- (I) vector-disease transmission as it relates to and influences pesticide application.
- (II) life cycles and habitats as a basis for strategy in control of mosquitoes.
- (III) wide variety of breeding and habitat environments ranging from outdoors to permanent and temporary bodies of water.
- (IV) importance and use of non-chemical methods such as sanitation, drainage and waste disposal.

40-21-4-.01 Recertification Requirements and Commercial Applicator License Renewals.

In order to insure that certified commercial pesticide applicators continue to meet the needs of changing technology necessary for the safe and effective use of pesticides, they shall be subject to recertification and licensing requirements as follows:

(a) Commercial Pesticide Applicators. All commercial pesticide applicators shall be licensed for a period of five years. All licenses shall be subject to renewal on the day following their expiration date, subject to licensee's completion of either option 1 or 2 below, and the payment of the twenty five (25) dollar renewal fee, when applicable. Those electing to be relicensed on the basis of earned training must have accumulated the required hours at least ninety (90) days prior to their license expiration date; otherwise, they will be required to pass a new written examination. No written examinations as a basis for relicensing may be taken more than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date. The license of any person who has not completed the required training or passed a new written examination and paid any required fee prior to the expiration date, will be subject to a penalty of 50% and the renewal fee for such license shall be thirty seven (37) dollars and fifty (50) cents. Any license for which the renewal requirements have not been met within sixty (60) days after expiration shall be cancelled. The Commissioner may, as he deems necessary, provide commercial pesticide applicators with information on changes in pesticides and pesticide application technology and may require such applicators to acknowledge in writing that they have become familiar with such new information. The Commissioner may require such acknowledgements as a condition for renewal of their commercial pesticide applicator's license. In no event will a commercial certified applicator's license be renewed unless the applicator has been recertified through one of the following procedures:

1. Completion of training in each of the pest control categories in which he is currently certified and desires to retain certification as follows:

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| (i) Agricultural Plant | 10 hours |
| (ii) Agricultural Animal | 6 hours |
| (iii) Forest | 6 hours |

(iv) Ornamental and Turf	10 hours
(v) Seed Treatment	6 hours
(vi) Aquatic	6 hours
(vii) Right of Way	6 hours
(viii) Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related	6 hours
(Excluding Pest Control operators regulated under the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act)	
(ix) Public Health	10 hours
(x) Mosquito Control	10 Hours
(xi) Regulatory	6 hours

(xii) For those applicators also certified in Demonstration and Research, and Aerial methods, the hours of training required for the primary categories (i) through (xi) above, may consist of any combination of hours divided between training in the primary category and training in Demonstration and Research and/or Aerial Methods. Any training credited toward recertification must be approved by and assigned a value for credit hours by the Commissioner of Agriculture prior to presentation. Such training may consist of grower meetings, seminars, short courses and other private or publicly sponsored training programs.

2. Satisfactory passing of a written examination administered by the Commissioner of Agriculture.