

# **Alaska Soil Fumigation Manual**



## **Category Fifteen**

In general, applicators who apply pesticides to property other than their own must obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Pesticide Program. Applicators who apply restricted-use pesticides, regardless of location, must also be certified.

All soil fumigants are designated as Restricted-Use Pesticides. As a result, **all applicators who apply soil fumigants** must be certified by DEC in Category Fifteen, whether being applied on your own property (private application), or on some else's property.

The information needed to successfully complete the written core examination required for all certified pesticide applicators in Alaska includes:

1. National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual;
2. Alaska Core Manual; and
3. State of Alaska Pesticide Regulations in Title 18, Chapter 90 of the Alaska Administrative Code (18 AAC 90)

The information needed to successfully obtain certification in Category Fifteen, Soil Fumigation in Alaska includes:

1. This Alaska Manual; and
2. The *National Soil Fumigation Manual*

Prior to taking the Category Exam for Fifteen, prospective applicators must provide documentation that they attended a training session (described below).

### **Learning Objectives For This Alaska Manual**

- List the active ingredients for soil fumigants currently registered in Alaska.
- Describe the training requirements for soil fumigators.
- Explain which tasks related to soil fumigation that non-certified people can engage in.

### **CALCULATIONS**

Precise and accurate application is important for every pesticide application, but this is particularly true for the types of pesticide applications allowed under Category Fifteen. Fumigation calculations can be extremely complex. Strong math skills, including the ability to calculate perimeters, odd shaped areas, mixing ratios, rates of application, etc. will be necessary to successfully pass the Category Fifteen Exam. You will need to carefully review Chapter 11 in the National Soil Fumigation Manual.

### **ACTIVE INGREDIENTS**

As of July 2017, only four soil fumigants are registered for sale in Alaska. The active ingredient for these four products is either metam sodium or metam potassium. Other active ingredients such as methyl bromide, chlorpicrin, dazomet, or 1,3-dichloropropene are not currently registered as soil fumigants in Alaska.

The *National Soil Fumigation Manual* explains that fumigants containing only 1,3-dichloropropene as an active ingredient do not have many of the same label requirements as other soil fumigants. In Alaska, there are no soil fumigants registered for sale that contain only 1,3-dichloropropene. As a result, ALL of the requirements outlined in the *National Soil Fumigation Manual* will apply. NONE of the exceptions outlined for 1,3-dichloropropene products are relevant in Alaska.

### **EPA TRAINING PROGRAM**

As stated in the *National Soil Fumigation Manual*, most labels require that certified soil fumigant applicators complete an EPA approved training program. It goes on to state that products containing only the active ingredient 1,3-dichloropropene do not have the same label requirements. In Alaska, there are no soil fumigants registered for sale that contain only 1,3-dichloropropene. As a result, ALL soil fumigant applicators in Alaska MUST complete an EPA approved training program at least every three years.

The *National Soil Fumigation Manual* explains that some state certification exams may meet the training program requirement; Alaska does not have an EPA approved certification exam. Only EPA approved training provided by the specific pesticide product registrant adequately meets the requirement.

Links to the appropriate training program are provided on the EPA soil fumigation website <https://www.epa.gov/soil-fumigants/soil-fumigant-training-certified-applicators>. Applicators must provide documentation of successfully completing the training program before State of Alaska pesticide applicator certification in Category Fifteen will be issued.

### **FUMIGANT APPLICATOR AND HANDLER REQUIREMENTS** 18 AAC 90.300(A)(1)

In Alaska, ONLY certified applicators may apply Restricted-Use Pesticides (RUPs). We do not allow non-certified applicators to apply RUPs, even under direct supervision. Anyone who is not certified may not apply RUPs, including soil fumigants. The information in the *National Soil Fumigation Manual* regarding non-certified applicators does not apply in Alaska.

Non-certified people may assist with handling tasks, such as transporting pesticide products, maintaining or cleaning equipment, removing tarps, assisting with preparation and mixing, or performing other tasks in a treated area. As stated in the *National Soil Fumigation Manual*, the certified applicator must provide specific safety information to handlers, and must document that training has occurred at least annually.

### **NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

The *National Soil Fumigation Manual* notes that some states require that applicators notify them before applying soil fumigants. There are no regulations that require notification in the State of Alaska.

**CONDITIONS IN ALASKA**

Many soil fumigants require that soil must be above a certain temperature. Climate conditions in Alaska may prevent or delay warming of soil, so this must be considered when planning a soil fumigation. Soil temperatures should be measured carefully prior to application.

**PPE REQUIREMENTS**

The *National Soil Fumigation Manual* notes that some states require more stringent respirator or PPE requirements, or place limits on respirator cartridge lifespans. There are no regulations that require more stringent PPE in the State of Alaska.

**TRANSPORTATION AND HANDLING REQUIREMENTS**

The *National Soil Fumigation Manual* notes that some states have additional requirements for transporting, handling, or storing fumigants. DEC does not have additional regulations regarding transporting, handling, or storing these products.

**OBTAINING SOIL FUMIGATION CERTIFICATION**

As stated in the *National Soil Fumigation Manual*, applicators must either take EPA approved registrant training, provided by the product manufacturer/registrant, or they must take an EPA approved state exam. Alaska does not have an approved soil fumigation exam, so registrant training is required. The Fumigant Applicator Training Center <http://www.fumiganttraining.com/> has links to the required registrant training for products available in Alaska.

To obtain certification in Soil Fumigation in Alaska, applicators must pass the Alaska Core Exam, provide documentation that they completed required registrant training, and pass the Category Exam.

## **Before Using Any Pesticide**

# **STOP**

**All pesticides can be harmful to health and environment if misused.**

**Read the label carefully. Use only as directed.**