

Pesticide Applicator Certification News

January 2010

Purpose of Certified Applicator Program

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) oversees and regulates the Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Program in the state of Alaska.

The purpose of the program is to ensure the competency of certified applicators. To become certified, applicators must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how to handle and apply pesticides safely and correctly.

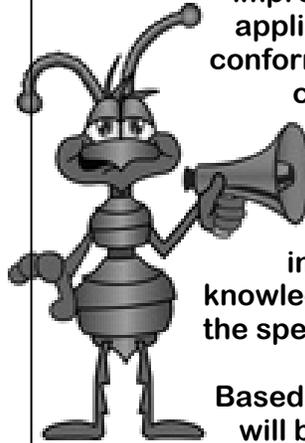
Pesticides are designed to be toxic to the pests they target – they can also have serious consequences to applicators, people who come in contact with them, pets, and the environment. Proper use of pesticides is essential to preventing these unwanted outcomes.

Becoming certified by the state of Alaska provides proof that you are knowledgeable about pesticide use, and can apply them safely and effectively.

Upcoming Changes to Testing

The purpose of Certification and Training Program is to ensure the competency of certified applicators.

Our current tests and exam policies need some improvements to adequately measure the applicant's knowledge and competency, to conform to national guidelines, and to be consistent with requirements in other states.



For 2010, ADEC is revising exams for certified applicators. All tests will include a core exam covering basic knowledge, plus additional questions related to the specific certification category.

Based on upcoming federal requirements, we will be moving towards closed book tests and increased exam security over the next couple of years. There will also be regular test revisions.

What does this mean for currently certified applicators? Increased certification standards will result in a competitive advantage for experienced, knowledgeable applicators. In the long run, a higher level of expertise and assurance of professional knowledge will result in overall improvements and credibility in the industry.

Who Needs To Be Certified?

You probably need to be a certified applicator if you

- Apply pesticides to someone else's property
- Provide information and consultation about commercial pesticide use
- Apply, purchase, or distribute Restricted Use Pesticides
- Apply pesticides in schools or public places

Becoming a Certified Applicator

To become certified, applicators must successfully complete the required training course and pass an examination.

Training classes are offered by the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Cooperative Extension Service, with offices across Alaska.

Correspondence and home study training is also available on a limited basis for those who are unable to attend a training class. Study materials for correspondence courses will be sent out **ONLY** after an exam is scheduled.

Re-Certification for Currently Certified Applicators

Currently certified applicators have two options for renewing their certification;

1. Successfully pass the required exam; or
2. Complete at least 12 DEC approved Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Applicators – it is YOUR responsibility to remember which CEUs you have completed!

Verification of CEU attendance is required.

Re-certification activities must be completed prior to expiration of current certification!

Where to Take Exams

The Cooperative Extension Service offers pesticide applicator exams following completion of training courses. Examinations are also available by appointment at Cooperative Extension Service offices or the DEC Pesticide Program office.

If testing is needed at another location, please contact DEC. **All testing not conducted by DEC or Cooperative Extension must be pre-approved and arranged by DEC.**



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Questions? Please call us!
907-376-1870
Toll free in-state: 800-478-2577

More information on Certified Applicator requirements is also available on-line at
www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/pest/cpa