
Retain for your information.

The Department of Pesticide Regulation, in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), follows the federal standards for certification of commercial applicators as stated in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations. This is necessary to comply with national certification requirements for an applicator to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides. Therefore, our pest control category examinations for the Qualified Applicator Certificate and Qualified Applicator License reflect the standards as stated below for each pest control category.

Specific Standards for Competency in each Pest Control Category

Applicators perform certain tasks specific to each pest control category, placing particular importance on specific factors in the General Standards. Such factors must be especially stressed and specifically reflected in the tests for certification. The test for a pest control category must relate to specific standards for the tasks in that pest control category. *Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)*

Example

For example, in the agricultural, plant category applicators should demonstrate practical knowledge of drift problems and prevention. It would not be expected that a seed treatment applicator would demonstrate practical knowledge in drift problems and prevention. However, a seed treatment applicator would be expected to know the types of equipment used for treating seed and precautions for preventing misuse of treated seed. *Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)*

Agricultural Plant; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Crops grown;
- Specific pests of those crops for which restricted use pesticides may be applied;
- Soil and water problems resulting from using restricted use pesticides;
- Pre-harvest intervals;
- Reentry intervals; and
- Phytotoxicity.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of the potential for:

- Environmental contamination;
- Non-target injury; and
- Community problems

Resulting from the use of restricted use pesticides in agricultural areas.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(1)(i)

Agricultural Animal; specific standards

Applicators applying restricted use pesticides directly to animals must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Such animals and their associated pests; and
- Specific pesticide toxicity and residue potential

Since host animals frequently are used for food.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of the relative hazards associated with such factors as:

- Formulation;
- Application techniques;
- Age of animals;
- Stress; and
- Extent of treatment.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(1)(ii)

Forest; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- The types of:
 - Forests;
 - Forest nurseries;
 - Seed production; and
 - The pests involved; and
- Programming pesticide applications based on:
 - Cyclic occurrence of certain pests; and
 - Specific population dynamics.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Relative biotic agents and their vulnerability to the pesticides to be applied;
- Control methods which will minimize the possibility of secondary problems, such as unintended effects on wildlife; and
- Proper use of specialized equipment, especially as it may relate to meteorological factors and adjacent land use.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(2)

Ornamental and Turf; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Ornamental trees;
- Shrubs;
- Plantings;
- Turf; and
- Potential phytotoxicity due to:
 - A wide variety of plant material;

- Drift; and
- Persistence beyond intended period of pest control.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of application methods that will minimize or prevent hazards to:

- Humans;
- Pets; and
- Other domestic animals.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(3)

Seed Treatment; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Types of seeds that require chemical protection against pests; and
- Factors that influence pesticide binding and may affect germination, such as:
 - Seed coloration;
 - Carriers; and
 - Surface active agents.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of the hazards associated with:

- Handling;
- Sorting;
- Mixing; and
- Misuse of treated seed, as well as;
- Proper disposal of unused treated seeds.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(4)

Aquatic; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- The principles of limited area application;
- Various water use situations and the potential for downstream effects; and
- The secondary effects that can be caused by:
 - Incorrect formulations; and
 - Faulty application.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of potential pesticide effects on:

- Plants;
- Fish;
- Birds;
- Beneficial insects; and
- Other organisms that may be present in aquatic environments.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(5)

Right-of-Way; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- A wide variety of environments, including waterways;
- The nature of herbicides and the need for containment within the right-of-way area; and
- The impact of application activities in the adjacent areas and communities.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of problems associated with:

- Runoff;
- Drift; and
- Excessive foliage destruction.

Applicators must possess the ability to recognize target organisms.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(6)

Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health Related; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of a wide variety of pests, including:

- Life cycles;
- Types of formulations appropriate for their control; and
- Methods of applications that avoid:
 - Contamination of food;
 - Damage and contamination of habitat; and
 - Exposure of people and pets.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Environmental conditions; and
- Specific factors which may lead to a hazardous condition involving exposure to humans, especially:
 - Babies;
 - Children;
 - Pregnant woman; and
 - Elderly people.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(7)

Public Health; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Vector disease transmission as it relates to and influences application programs; and
- The great variety of environments ranging from:
 - Streams to conditions inside of building.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Developing control strategies based on pest:
 - Identification;

- Life cycles; and
- Habitats; and
- The importance and employment of non-chemical control methods including:
 - Sanitation;
 - Waste disposal; and
 - Drainage.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(7)

Regulatory; specific standards

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Regulated pests;
- Applicable laws relating to:
 - Quarantine; and
 - Other regulation of pests; and
- The potential environmental impact from using restricted materials in suppression and eradication programs.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of factors influencing:

- Introduction;
- Spread; and
- Population dynamics of relevant pests.

Applicators' knowledge shall extend beyond their immediate duties since their services are frequently required in other areas of the country where emergency measures are invoked to control regulated pests and where individual judgments must be made in new situations.

Demonstration and Research; specific standards

When demonstrating the safe and effective use of pesticides to:

- Other applicators; and
- The public

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of the comprehensive standards reflecting a broad spectrum of pesticide uses.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:

- Problems;
- Pests; and
- Population levels
Occurring in each demonstration situation since many different pest problem situations will be encountered.
- Applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of:
 - A pesticide-organism interaction; and
 - The importance of integrating pesticide use with other control methods.

Therefore, applicators must demonstrate competency, practical knowledge, and an understanding of the General Standards.

Applicators conducting field research or method improvement work with restricted use pesticides should be expected to know the General Standards. In addition, they shall be expected to know the Specific Standards applicable to their particular activity.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(c)(10)

Questions

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