

# DPR Licenses and Certificates – Frequently Asked Questions



## 1. What is the difference between a QAC and a QAL?

**Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC)** – The certificate allows you to apply restricted pesticides to property you own or property owned or leased by your employer. QACs may work for a pest control business, but cannot serve as the business's required qualified person (See FAC sections 11701-11709 for more details on qualified persons). Example: A school district employee that will be applying or supervising applications of a restricted pesticide on property owned by the district.

This certificate is also required for the qualified person of a licensed Maintenance Gardening Pest Control Business, which is a business that focuses on providing maintenance gardening services, but is licensed by DPR so that they may apply pesticides incidentally (note that this business cannot advertise pest control services). If you are the qualified applicator certificate holder, you must possess the Landscape Maintenance Pest Control Category (Category B) or the Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Category (Subcategory Q), dependent on whether the business wants the option to use restricted pesticides or not. The QAC Q certification limits you and the business to incidental use of general use pesticides only.

**Qualified Applicator License (QAL)** – This license is required for individuals that wish to serve as the qualified person for a pest control business. QALs typically work for a pest control business, or supervise a pest control business' operations.

For more information regarding a specific scenario, please feel free to email us at [LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov)

## 2. How can I apply for a DPR license?

To obtain a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) or Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC), you must:

### 1. Submit an application with the appropriate fees

- [Qualified Applicator License](#) or [Qualified Applicator Certificate](#)
- Leave the "Exam Schedule" section of your application blank. You do not need to write in your choice for an exam date and location on your application because exams are being offered at testing centers throughout California.
- Send the completed application forms with a check, money order, or the Visa/MasterCard credit information form made payable to "Cashier - DPR" and mail applications to:  
Department of Pesticide Regulation  
ATTN: Cashier MS 4A  
PO Box 4015  
Sacramento, California 95812-4015

- The application fee is \$80 for a QAL and \$40 for a QAC. This fee is only required once, provided you become licensed within one year.
- The examination fee is \$50 for the Laws, Regulations, and Basic Principles exam and \$50 for each category that you take (including re-examinations due to rescheduling or failure to pass). If you fail to appear for your examination(s) you must again submit the exam fees.

### 2. Pass the required examinations

- To obtain a QAL or QAC, you must pass the Laws, Regulations, and Basic Principles exam AND at least one pest control category exam. A passing exam grade is a score of 70 percent or higher.
- After your application and payment are received by DPR, you will be contacted by email to schedule your exam date, time, and location at one of the testing centers located throughout California. Applicants will be contacted within 45 days in the order in which applications were received.
- You will be contacted by [no-reply@psiexams.com](mailto:no-reply@psiexams.com) at the email address noted on your application. Please note that the email address should be unique to the individual applicant. Attempting to use a single email addresses for multiple applicants will cause a delay in processing as the email address is used as a unique login for each person.
- To prepare for the examination, DPR suggests that you read the appropriate study materials as listed on the applicable suggested Study Materials Source List document. Many of the study material references (some of which must be purchased from University of California) have practice exam questions at the end of each chapter that can help you evaluate whether you know the material well enough to pass the exam. For many categories, DPR has also listed Knowledge Expectations on the Study Material List that outlines the information you will be expected to know when you take the examination.

## 3. Are the exams in Spanish?

The DPR exams and study materials are printed in English except for the QAC Q - Maintenance Gardener Category. Note that although the Maintenance Gardener Spanish exam contains questions and answer options in Spanish, the pesticide label that is included in the exam is in English.

If you are interested in learning more about the QAC maintenance gardener certification, please see our web page en Español: [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners/spanish/maintgardeners\\_sp.htm](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners/spanish/maintgardeners_sp.htm)

Título de Examen: Jardinero de Mantenimiento (Subcategoría Q)

[Paquete para la solicitud /aplicación del certificado QAC](#)

[Fechas de exámenes](#)

#### 4. Where can I find continuing education (CE) courses?

In addition to the in person CE courses; there are also online and webinar-style [Spanish CE courses](#) available that can be taken during the day, evening, or weekends that can be completed from home to satisfy your CE requirements.

You should always view the current list of [DPR Approved CE Classes](#) to verify if a specific class is approved and what the specific CE hours were approved for. If you have concerns if a course is approved by DPR, please contact the course sponsor directly.

Once you have completed the class, sponsors must provide every attendee with a certificate of completion that contains the following nine items:

- Licensee's name
- License/Certificate number
- Title of class/program
- Name of CE sponsor
- Location of class/program
- Date of class/program
- Number of completed hours for each CE category
- Licensee's signature
- Class ID code assigned by DPR

College courses and classes that are approved by other agencies or organizations (Structural Pest Control Board, Certified Crop Advisors, certified arborists, etc.) do not count towards CE for your DPR license or certificate renewal unless the course or class was also approved by DPR.

Always check the list of [DPR Approved CE Classes](#) to ensure a course has been approved by DPR prior to attending.

#### 5. How can I renew my DPR license?

1. [Complete the entire Individual License/Certificate Renewal Application Packet](#) found on the DPR Licensing and Certification Program website and **ensure all information is filled out and your application is signed.**
2. Include appropriate payment as a check, money order, or credit card form made payable to "Cashier - DPR"
3. Mail completed application and payment by standard USPS, to:  
Department of Pesticide Regulation  
ATTN: Cashier MS 4A  
PO Box 4015  
Sacramento, California 95812-4015

Note that we cannot accept emailed or faxed applications. Please allow time for mail delivery and at least 60 days for processing once DPR receives the application. Your payment transaction is your confirmation that DPR received your documents. Please contact your financial institution to determine the payment transaction date and to confirm that your payment and application were received by DPR.

#### 6. When will I get my renewed license or certificate?

Typically, the renewal processing can take 60 days from the date of your payment transaction if DPR receives it by November 1. However, due to the large volume of applications that typically come late in the year, our processing can take longer if mailed later. Note that DPR staff processes applications in the order they are received.

You can check to see if your license or certificate has been renewed by checking DPR's [Valid License list](#). Once listed as renewed, your new card will be mailed to you shortly.

#### 7. Any other Questions:

Email us at [LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov)

Please include your full name, license or certificate number (if applicable), your phone number, and your question.

