

## Chapter 3

### Licensees - State License and Certificate Requirements

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## Section 1 Licensing Overview

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### Introduction

Part of DPR's mission is to protect human health and the environment from the hazards of pesticides.

Part of the Structural Pest Control Board's (SPCB) mission is to protect the general welfare of Californians and the environment in the structural pest management profession.

To achieve these missions, it is imperative to ensure that commercial and non-commercial pest control activities are performed by licensed and trained individuals:

- DPR and SPCB issue licenses and certificates to businesses and individuals to perform pest control or sell agricultural-use pesticides.
- The County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) issue private applicator certificates and register certain licensees.

CACs also issue registrations to and conduct inspections on Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs). FLC licenses are issued by the Department of Industrial Relations' Labor Commissioner's Office (also known as the Division of Labor Standard Enforcement (DLSE)). DLSE's mission is to ensure a just day's pay in every workplace in the State and to promote economic justice through robust enforcement of labor laws.

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### Types of licenses or certificates

The type of license or certificate required is determined by the type and circumstance of the pesticide(s) applied. Questions to ask are:

- What type of work is being done?
- What is the setting/location?
- What pest is being targeted?
- Who is doing the work?

DPR issues licenses or certificates that are not for structural use to:

- Individuals who use or supervise the use of pesticides who are not private applicators
  - Businesses that apply pesticides
  - Pesticide dealers and brokers
  - Individuals who give advice on agricultural pest control, including making written recommendations
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## Licensing Overview, Continued

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**Types of licenses or certificates,**  
(continued)

SPCB issues licenses to:

- Structural pest control businesses
- Individuals applying pesticides to control pests invading structures

Relative to this chapter, DLSE issues Farm Labor Contractor (FLC) licenses to employers providing farm labor.

CACs issue:

- Private Applicator Certificates (PACs)
- County registration of many individuals and businesses licensed or certified by DPR, SPCB and DLSE.

A description of requirements for various types of pest control activities and settings are in this chapter.

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**How to obtain a license or certificate**

Specific information for obtaining a DPR license or certificate is available from the DPR Pest Management and Licensing Branch, including application forms at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/liccert.htm>.

Specific information for obtaining a Structural pest control license or certificate is available from the SPCB website, including application forms for examinations at <http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/howdoi/lic.shtml>.

Specific information for obtaining a Farm Labor Contractor license is available from the DLSE website, including application forms at [https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/FLC\\_new\\_license.htm](https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/FLC_new_license.htm).

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**Vector control certified technician**

Vector Control Technicians are “certified commercial applicators” per 3 CCR section 6000. Certification is done by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). For information on this certificate please see <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Vector-Control-Technician-Certification-Program.aspx>.

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## Licensing Overview, Continued

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### DPR examination information

Applications and applicable fees must be postmarked no later than the date indicated on the Examination Schedule provided by DPR's Pest Management and Licensing Branch.

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### County Registrations

To conduct operations in a county, a business or individual must first register in that county:

- County registration fees are in *FAC sections 11734* for Pest Control Businesses, *11923* for Pest Control Pilots, *12034* for Pest Control Advisers, and *LC section 1695(b)* for Farm Labor Contractors.
- County registration fees for Structural Pest Control Businesses are in *FAC sections 15204 and 15204.5*.
- Refusal, revocation, or suspension of the county registration of the respective licenses can be found in *FAC sections 11735* (Pest Control Operators), *11924* (Pilots), and *12035* (Pest Control Advisers).

There is no statutory authority requiring or allowing a CAC to condition registrations for a Pest Control Business, Pest Control Adviser, Pest Control Aircraft Pilot, or a Structural Pest Control Business.

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### Who to contact

For questions about an agricultural pest control license or certificate, contact DPR's Pest Management and Licensing Branch's Licensing Program at:

Department of Pesticide Regulation  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, California 95814-2828  
(916) 445-4038 / Fax (916) 445-4033

For questions about a structural pest control license, contact the SPCB at:

Structural Pest Control Board  
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, California 95815  
(916) 561-8704 / Fax (916) 263-2469

For questions about a Farm Labor Contractor license, send an email to [FLC@dir.ca.gov](mailto:FLC@dir.ca.gov).

For questions about a county registration issue, contact the applicable local County Agricultural Commissioner office:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>.

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## Section 2

### Agricultural Pest Control Advisers (PCAs)

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**Who needs the agricultural PCA License**

Any individual who offers a recommendation on any agricultural use, who holds himself/herself forth as an authority on any agricultural use, or who solicits services or sales for any agricultural use. (*FAC sections 11410, 11411 and 12001*)

For a discussion of “agricultural use,” see Compendium Volume 8, Section 1.1, *Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Pest Control Use*.

See the next page for PCA licensing exemptions and see Section 2.2 for examples of situations when licensing as a PCA is required

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**Duties of a PCA**    **Interprets FAC section 11410**

Whether an individual’s activities amount to acting as a Pest Control Adviser and thereby triggering licensing requirements must be judged using the definition of “agricultural use” in *FAC section 11408* and the three criteria described in *FAC section 11410*. These criteria are:

1. Offer (to a third party) a recommendation on agricultural use.
  2. Hold oneself forth (to a third party) as an authority on agricultural use.
  3. Solicit services or sales (*3 CCR section 6000*) outside of a fixed place of business for agricultural use.
- 

**Public distribution required - PCA**

**Interprets FAC section 11410**

The definition of PCA infers distributing the recommendation outside the firm or agency to a third party (soliciting outside a fixed place of business, holding forth, and offering). The Merriam-Webster dictionary’s definition of “recommend” is to “advise” or “to present as worthy of acceptance.” Implicit in *FAC section 11411* and the dictionary definition of “recommendation” is that the advice is offered or given to another person. A person does not give advice to himself/herself (or in the case of the property operator itself). Similarly, an individual “holds himself/herself forth as an authority” on some subject to another person, not to himself/herself.

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## Agricultural Pest Control Advisers (PCAs), Continued

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**Public  
distribution  
required - PCA  
(continued)**

The idea of licensing certain individuals who engage “for hire” in certain occupations is in the concept of consumer protection -- to protect the public from individuals who may purport to have certain skills or knowledge who, in fact, do not possess them.

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**PCA licensing  
exemptions**

Exemptions to the PCA licensing requirements:

- Officials of federal, state, and county departments of agriculture and University of California personnel engaged in duties related to agricultural use are exempt, if the recommendation is put in writing. (*FAC section 12001*)
  - Owners (and their employees) of private firms (i.e., growers, golf courses) making decisions on pesticide use on their own property.
  - A veterinarian writing a prescription for use to control an animal pest. This is a non-agricultural use. (*FAC section 11408*)
  - Individuals within an established place of business who merely write sales invoices or receipts or otherwise handle over-the-counter sales transactions where no recommendations are made or inferred.
  - Registered professional foresters (RPF), in the practice of providing silvicultural advice. However, in situations where the RPF gives advice in the form of silvicultural prescriptions and includes the use of specific pesticides, the RPF would have to be licensed as a PCA.
  - Individuals making a recommendation for treating seed, who either owns or is employed by a firm in the business of treating seed. While the firm may need a pest control business (PCB) license, this is considered industrial use not within the scope of a PCA license requirement.
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## Agricultural Pest Control Advisers (PCAs), Continued

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**Education  
required to  
obtain a PCA  
license**

An applicant for a new PCA license must meet the following educational requirements (3 CCR section 6550):

- Option 1: Graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences, biological sciences, natural sciences, or pest management and completed the core course requirements;
- Option 2: Graduated from an accredited doctoral degree program in agricultural sciences, biological sciences, natural sciences or pest management; or
- Option 3: Meet the core course requirements plus 24 months of technical experience working in an agricultural capacity related to pest management.

The core course requirements (3 CCR section 6550(b)) are 42 semester units or 63 quarter units of college-level curricula in the physical and biological sciences, crop health, pest management systems and methods, and production systems course areas with a 2.0 grade point average in all core courses.

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**Requirements  
to obtain a PCA  
license**

PCA applicants shall:

1. Submit a complete *Agricultural Pest Control Adviser License Application* form (DPR-PML-084).
2. Submit a copy of official college transcripts with the PCA application. (3 CCR section 6550)
3. Submit an initial application fee.
4. Submit an examination fee for each examination requested.
5. Pass the Laws, Regulations, and Basic Principles (includes Integrated Pest Management Principles) examination and at least one category examination.

*Note*: Examinations are based on the knowledge expectations found on DPR's website at [www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/adviserke.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/adviserke.htm).

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## Agricultural Pest Control Advisers (PCAs), Continued

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**PCA pest control categories**

As specified in FAC section 12022, the pest control categories available under the PCA license are as follows:

- A. Insect, Mites, and Other Invertebrates
  - B. Plant Pathogens
  - C. Nematodes
  - D. Vertebrate Pests
  - E. Weed Control
  - F. Defoliation
  - G. Plant Growth Regulation
- 

**Requirements once licensed**

Once licensed, an adviser shall:

- Accumulate at least 40 hours of approved continuing education every two years before license renewal. Four of the 40 hours must cover the topic of pesticide laws and regulations. (*3 CCR section 6511(e)*)
  - Register with the CAC in their "home" county (address on the PCA license) and in each county where recommendations are made. If the address is not within California, then the registration would be in the county of occupational choice. (*FAC section 12031*)
  - Write recommendations that do not conflict with label requirements. (*FAC section 12971*)
  - Retain one copy of each written recommendation for one year following the date of the recommendation (*FAC section 12004*)
  - If the recommendation is for use of a high-volatile organic compound nonfumigant product, the recommendation must not recommend a use in violation of 3 CCR section 6884 or identify the exemption under 6884(b). The PCA must keep a copy of these recommendations for two years (*3 CCR section 6558*).
  - Provide the operator of the property with a copy of the written recommendation prior to the application. (*FAC section 12003*)
  - Provide the pesticide dealer and applicator with a copy of the written recommendation prior to application. (*FAC section 12003*)
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## Section 2.1 County Registration of PCAs

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**County registration of PCAs** An adviser shall not make, or offer to make, an agricultural use recommendation in any county without first registering with the CAC. This registration is required annually. (*FAC sections 12002 and 12033*)

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**In-person home county registration** Check the PCA license to make sure it is valid for the year the applicant is registering and check the applicant's signature on the back of the card or check DPR's list of valid licenses at:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/currlic.htm>.

1. Using the reproduction template (See Appendix A) as a guide, the CAC can make its own form for registering the PCA, as long as it contains the information from DPR's *Agricultural Pest Control Adviser County Registration* form (DPR-PML-091).
2. Copy the registration application with the applicant's license card.
3. Have the PCA complete the CAC's registration form.
4. Make sure the application is complete.
5. Collect the registration fee, if required.
6. The CAC or authorized person should sign and date the form.
7. Keep the original for county records, and provide the applicant a copy of the registration form.
8. Review pertinent county policies and regulations with the applicant, especially any new ones.

If necessary, process the registration forms the applicant needs to register in additional counties. Do not sign them. Give the forms to the applicant to send, with a reminder that other counties may require fees for registration.

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**Out of county registration -- mail**

1. Check the PCA's home county registration form for completeness.
2. Check the completed form to make sure the license is valid for the year the applicant is registering.
3. Make sure the appropriate fee (if one is required) accompanies the form.
4. Check the records to see if the applicant previously registered in the county and if there were any problems.
5. The CAC or authorized person should sign and date the form.
6. Keep the original for county records, and provide the applicant a copy of the registration form.
7. Provide a list of current county policies and regulations and indicate whether your office will require copies of their recommendations.

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## Section 2.2

### Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios

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<b>Introduction</b>	This section contains interpretations and descriptions of some situations and scenarios to help make licensing determinations.
<b>Biological control agents</b>	Individuals who recommend the use of biological control agents (e.g., predatory insects, parasitic wasps, pathogenic fungi or viruses) are required to have a PCA license.
<b>Management firms</b>	<p>For the purposes of this discussion, a "management firm" is defined as a business that provides operational assistance, support or other activities on a "fee for service" basis. These are commonly seen in vineyard management and golf course management companies. A management firm should not be confused with a "partner" which has an ownership interest in the operation. If part of the service provided includes pest control for hire, management firms must be licensed as a pest control business (See also Section 4.4 below).</p> <p>If a management firm makes agricultural recommendations as part of that service, the individual making those recommendations must be a licensed PCA. This individual may be either an employee of the management firm or an independent PCA under a contractual arrangement with the management firm.</p>
<b>Landscape architects</b>	Any landscape architect who includes pesticide use specifications in landscape architectural plans (except plans concerning the immediate landscaping environment of a residential dwelling or commercial business office, shopping centers, and other similar institutional settings) must be licensed as an agricultural PCA. Included within the scope of the PCA licensing requirement are those recommendations (specifications) concerning landscaping of parks and recreation areas, golf courses, cemeteries, parkways, highways, and other similar settings.

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## Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios, Continued

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**Recommendation requirements**

**Interprets FAC section 12003, 3 CCR sections 6556 and 6558**

1. Operator of the property
2. Location of the property
3. Commodity, crop, or site to be treated
4. Pest (by accepted common name)
5. Name of each pesticide
6. Dosage (of pesticide per unit treated) or description of method recommended
7. Concentration (of the mix applied) per acre
8. Volume (of mix per unit treated) per acre
9. Total acreage (or units) treated
10. Schedule, time, or conditions of the treatment or other control method
11. Restricted entry interval applicable (label and/or regulation)
12. Preharvest or preslaughter interval (“preharvest interval – see label” is inadequate)
13. A warning of the possibility of damages that could occur that reasonably should have been known by the PCA to exist (including, but not limited to hazards known to exist, crop rotation, crop disposition, or plant back restrictions)
14. Criteria for determining need for the recommended treatment (e.g., pest count, history of infestation, preventative measures, etc.)
15. If the pesticide is a nonfumigant high VOC product utilizing an exemption under 6884(b), the exemption must be identified.
16. Certification that alternatives and mitigation were considered and, if feasible, adopted
17. Signature or mark of the individual making the recommendation or preparing the work order must also be included. A signature is any unique "mark" made by the PCA, or with his/her consent, that identifies that particular PCA (or grower in the case of a work order). This mark can be the PCA signature, printed name, or license number.
18. Date
19. Address
20. The name of the business represented

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## Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios, Continued

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**Recommendations -- hazards known to exist**

**Interprets FAC section 12003(f)**

Each recommendation must include, when applicable, a warning of the possibility of damages by the pesticide application that should have reasonably been known to exist at the time the recommendation was made. This requirement is designed to ensure that applications are made only under suitable conditions by alerting the applicator to hazards so that precautions may be taken to eliminate or minimize the hazards. Also, it serves to remind the PCA of this important consideration that should influence pest management decisions.

Advisers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the area surrounding the intended application site. When a condition is known to exist that could result in damage, advisers must include it in their written recommendations. Examples of situations that could result in damage from pesticide applications include:

- Adjacent crops for which the recommended pesticide is not registered and which have no tolerance established;
- Labor intensive crops which are at or near a stage where field work crews may be in the field;
- Apiaries located within or adjacent to an intended treatment area;
- Bodies of water (including water return systems);
- Buildings (including residences), businesses, schools, etc.;
- Domestic animals or livestock, and wildlife nesting and grazing areas.

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## Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios, Continued

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### Work orders      **Interprets 3 CCR section 6632**

Broadly speaking, work orders are distinct and separate from recommendations. A work order is created by the operator of the property (owner, renter, or lessee of the property or designated employee) without an agricultural pest control adviser license. The work order identifies the pesticides to be applied and provides application instructions to the pest control business or applicator. The work order may be extremely simple and may not even be written down.

A property operator may ask for or be provided a PCA's written recommendation for a pesticide application. The recommendation is written to the property operator. The property operator can convert any or all of the recommendation into a work order to provide to a licensed pest control business (PCB).

However, when a property operator is providing a work order to the PCB for a pesticide that requires a restricted material permit, 3 CCR section 6632(a) requires the PCB be provided with a recommendation or a work order which contains all the elements required of a recommendation from FAC section 12003 and 3 CCR section 6556. It is the property operator's responsibility to provide the PCB with this information.

See also *Internal Pest Control Decisions* below.

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### **Property operators and work orders**

Employees working for a private firm (grower, golf course, etc.) may write the work order without being a PCA.

Employees of a public agency making recommendations must be licensed pest control advisers in the appropriate category(ies), unless exempted under *FAC section 12001*.

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## Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios, Continued

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**Public agency employees**

**Interprets 3 CCR section 6551**

FAC section 12001 exempts the following public employees from the PCA licensing requirements when making agricultural use recommendations in connection with their official duties:

- Federal, state, and county departments of agriculture personnel. All agricultural use recommendations must be in writing.
- University of California personnel and officials of districts. All agricultural use recommendations must be in writing.

3 CCR section 6551 requires that all other federal, state, county or local employees (other than those exempted by FAC section 12001) must have a PCA license when making recommendations in connection with their official duties.

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**Recommendations -- distribution of copies**

**Interprets FAC section 12003, 3 CCR sections 6426, 6566 and 6632**

The grower makes the final decision to apply a pesticide(s) resulting from a written recommendation. A signed and dated copy of each agricultural use recommendation must be furnished to the property operator prior to the application (soon enough to use the recommendation to make treatment decisions).

3 CCR sections 6426(b) and 6632(a) require that a PCB have a written recommendation available covering each agricultural use of a restricted material that requires a permit.

A copy of each recommendation must also be furnished to the pest control dealer and the applicator (i.e., PCB) in sufficient time to allow compliance with 3 CCR section 6566 (relative to supplemental labeling), but at no time later than the time of the delivery of the pesticide. Copies for the dealer and applicator, if they are unknown, shall be delivered to the property operator with his/her copy.

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## Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios, Continued

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### Internal Pest Control Decisions

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**Pest control  
business work  
requirement**

**Interprets FAC section 12003 and 3 CCR section 6632**

The pest control work requirements in 3 CCR section 6632 require a PCB to have a copy of the recommendation adopted by the operator of the property or a work order which contains the required elements before making an agricultural use application of a pesticide that requires a permit. Generally, this requirement will be met by the operator of the property passing on a copy of a recommendation made by a licensed PCA or a work order that has the criteria identified in FAC section 12003 and 3 CCR section 6556.

Generally, there is no requirement for the operator of the property to document his or her pest control decision-making process or to have a copy of a recommendation for any application<sup>1</sup>. Although it is a requirement of FAC section 12003 that a licensed PCA provide a copy of any recommendation he or she writes to the operator of the property, that copy usually does not have to be retained by the operator of the property.

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**Recommendation versus  
work order**

**Interprets 3 CCR section 6632**

These are two different documents:

1. A “recommendation” contains advice or suggestions from a PCA provided to, and for consideration by, the operator of the property in reaching a pest control decision.
2. A “work order” contains instructions or directions from the operator of the property to the PCB about how the application is to be made to implement the pest control decision of the operator of the property.

The PCB cannot alter these instructions regardless of their original source. They are, in effect, contract specifications for the pesticide application. However, the PCB can discuss any concerns about the recommendation or work order with the property operator or PCA prior to making the application.

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<sup>1</sup> However, per 3CCR section 6883 growers in the San Joaquin Valley ozone NAA (counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and a portion of Kern County) are required to have a PCA recommendation for the use of a high-volatile organic compound nonfluigant product specified in 6881 when used on specified crops from May 1 to October 31. These recommendations must be kept for two years

## Interpretation of Agricultural PCA Scenarios, Continued

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**Recommendation versus work order,**  
(continued)

The document that begins as a recommendation to the operator of the property becomes a “work order” when it is adopted by the operator of the property and forwarded to the PCB. Alternatively, the “work order” can be internally prepared by employees and is acceptable as long as it contains the information required in a “recommendation.”

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**Interpretation of law**

**Interprets FAC section 12001**

The legal opinion of Chief Counsel for DPR, outlined in an August 27, 2003 memorandum to the Chief, Enforcement Branch, is that licensing as a PCA is not required of employees of a firm to participate in internal pest control decisions applicable to property operated by that firm. When a recommendation is distributed outside of the firm for consideration by a third party in making a pest control decision (which a PCB does not do), the recommendation must be signed by a licensed PCA, unless specifically exempt by FAC section 12001.

3 CCR section 6551 specifically requires public agency employees who make recommendations on pest control for use by that agency to be licensed PCAs.

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## Section 3

### Dealers, Brokers and Designated Agents – Pesticide Sales

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#### Pest Control Dealer

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**Who needs the pest control dealer license**

Per *FAC section 11407*, Any individual or business, including Internet and mail order businesses, whether inside or outside of California, who:

- Sell agricultural use and “dual use” products to users.
  - Sell any method or device for the control of agricultural pests, such as biological control agents, lures or insect trapping devices.
  - Solicit sales of pesticides by making agricultural use recommendations through field representatives or other agents.
  - Sell restricted materials or pesticides requiring the supervision of a certified applicator to users.
- 

**Exemptions to the pest control dealer license requirements**

- Federal, state, or county agencies providing pesticide materials for agricultural use are exempt from the pest control dealer licensing requirements. (*FAC section 12102*)
  - Licensed agricultural pest control and structural pest control businesses that apply pesticides that are recommended or sold by the business. (*FAC section 11407.5*)
- 

**What’s required to obtain a pest control dealer license**

An applicant for a new pest control dealer license must:

1. Complete the *Pest Control Dealer License Application* (DPR-PML-41) for each principal and branch location and submit it and all required fees to DPR.
  2. Each principal and branch location must have an individual who is responsible for the operation of the dealership and licensed/certified as a Dealer Designated Agent, PCA, Pest Control Aircraft Pilot, or a QAL. (*3 CCR section 6560*)
  3. Submit a Fictitious Business Name Statement obtained from the County Clerk's Office (if applicable)<sup>2</sup> (*FAC section 12103*)
  4. For a corporation, submit a Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State. (*FAC section 12103*)
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<sup>2</sup> For a business owned by an individual, a “fictitious business name” is any name that does not include the last name (surname) of the owner, or which implies additional owners (such as "Company", "and Sons", etc.). In the case of a corporation, LLC or LP, a fictitious business name is any name other than the exact name that is on record with the Secretary of State's Office.

## Dealers and Brokers – Product Sales, Continued

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### Dealer requirements once licensed

Once licensed, each pest control dealer principal and branch location must:

- Have and maintain a designated agent to actively supervise all operations conducted by the location. (3 CCR section 6560(a))
- Retain records of all pesticides sold or delivered, except for pesticides labeled only for home use. (3 CCR section 6562)
- Indicate "California mill assessment was paid" or "California mill assessment of (amount established by FAC) mills was paid" on all sales invoices. (FAC section 12847)
- When a pesticide is sold for an agricultural use without a recommendation, the invoice or delivery slip must state that no recommendation has been made. (3 CCR section 6562(a)(5))
- Retain written recommendations for two years. (3 CCR section 6562)
- When required, obtain restricted material permit or operator identification number (OIN) prior to sale or delivery of pesticides. (3 CCR section 6568)
- Retain a copy of permits for restricted materials and OINs for two years. (3 CCR section 6568)
- Retain a copy of the purchaser's QAL, QAC or PAC or a statement attesting to their certification for two years. (3 CCR section 6568)
- Send a list of OINs with corresponding names of persons purchasing pesticides during the quarter to each CAC who issued the OIN other than the county where the dealer is located. (3 CCR section 6568(d))
- Obtain a copy of the ship vessel registration for tributyltin purchases and maintain record of sale for two years. (3 CCR section 6574)
- For sales of pesticides containing clopyralid, retain a signed statement from the qualified applicator for two years. (3 CCR section 6576)
- Provide information to purchasers of volatile organic compound pesticides for use within the San Joaquin Valley Ozone NAA and record that on the invoice (3 CCR section 6577)

### Principal pest control dealer requirements

Once licensed, the **principal (main)** pest control dealer must:

- Retain at the principal place of business, records of purchases, sales and distribution of pesticides including those of its branch locations for four years. (FAC section 12114(a))
- Report assessable sales to DPR quarterly for the principal and all branch locations. (FAC section 12114(b))
- Report annually to the DPR all pesticides purchased from a person who is not a licensed pest control dealer or a registrant. (FAC section 12115)

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## Dealers and Brokers – Product Sales, Continued

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### Sales of federal restricted use pesticides or California restricted materials

Prior to the sale or delivery of a pesticide for which a restricted materials permit is required, the dealer must obtain a copy of the purchaser's restricted material permit. (3 CCR section 6568(a))

A dealer must also have proof that the purchaser is a certified applicator or a certified applicator is designated on a restricted materials permit. A copy of the current license or certificate will verify certification. Per 3 CCR section 6000, certified applicators include individuals possessing a qualified applicator license or certificate (QAL or QAC), private applicator certificate (PAC), Structural Pest Control Operators (OPR) and Field Representatives (FR), Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Certificate (PCAPC), or Vector Control Technician.

Prior to the sale of a federal restricted use pesticide (3 CCR section 6400(a)) or a pesticide with potential to pollute ground water (3 CCR section 6400(d)) that does not require a permit for possession or use, the dealer must obtain a copy of the purchaser's certification or signed statement.

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### Duties of the designated agent

#### **Interprets FAC section 12101.5 and 3 CCR section 6560**

Each licensed pest control dealer must have a designated agent at the principal office and an agent at each branch location to actively supervise all operations conducted by the location. The designated agent performs the following duties for the pest control dealer:

- Actively supervises employees who sell pesticides.
- Exercises responsibility in carrying out the business of a pest control dealer.

The designated agent needs to be available to direct and control sales of pesticide products by unlicensed dealer employees. The availability of the designated agent should be directly related to the hazards of the products sold and the volume of pesticide sales.

An individual may be a designated agent for only one location. The designated agent cannot work full time as a PCA while “overseeing” dealer operations remotely.

A designated agent must be an individual who possesses a Dealer Designated Agent (DDA) license, a PCA license, a PCAPC, or a QAL.

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## Dealers and Brokers – Product Sales, Continued

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**“Branch location” defined**

As defined in 3 CCR section 6000, a “Branch location” means “any location, other than the principal place of business, operated by a pesticide dealer or an agricultural pest control business to carry out licensed activities in California.”

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### Pest Control Dealer Designated Agent (DDA)

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**Who needs the DDA license**

An individual needs a DDA license if he/she is responsible for supervising the operations of a licensed pest control dealer business and does not possess a PCA license, QAL, or PCAPC.

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**What’s required to obtain a pest control dealer designated agent license**

An applicant for a pest control dealer designated agent license must:

1. Complete the *Pest Control Dealer Designated Agent License Application* (DPR-PML-043).
2. Submit the completed application with the initial application fee and examination fee to DPR.
3. Pass a written examination on the sale and use of pesticides and pest control dealer responsibilities. (*FAC section 12253*)

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**Requirements once licensed**

No continuing education is required to renew the DDA license.

The DDA license is valid for up to two years. Prior to the license expiring, a renewal fee is due to DPR to renew the license.

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*Continued on next page*

## Dealers and Brokers – Product Sales, Continued

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### Pesticide Broker

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**Who needs the pesticide broker license** Any individual or business, including Internet and mail order businesses, whether inside or outside of California, who first sells or distributes pesticides into California other than registrants and licensed pest control dealers (FAC section 12400).

The pesticide broker requirements apply to **all pesticide products sold into California**. The requirements apply to both agricultural pesticides and pesticides sold for non-agricultural use (e.g., home residential, industrial, and institutional settings).

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**Exemptions to the pesticide broker license requirements**

- Persons licensed as pest control dealers. A pest control dealer license is required if sales of agricultural use products are direct to end-users.
- Registrant selling its own registered product or other registrant's product.

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**What's required to obtain a pesticide broker license**

An applicant for a pesticide broker license must:

1. Complete the *Pesticide Broker License Application* (DPR-PML-217) for each principal and branch location and submit it to DPR.
2. Branch locations include a broker's distribution center(s), not individual retail outlets.
3. There are no fees required to obtain this license. (3 CCR section 6502)
4. Submit a Fictitious Business Name Statement obtained from the County Clerk's Office, if applicable<sup>3</sup> (FAC section 12401), or
5. Certificate of Good Standing obtained from the Secretary of State. Corporations incorporated out-of-state must submit a Certificate of Good Standing from that state. (FAC section 12401)

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*Continued on next page*

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<sup>3</sup> See *Pest Control Dealer* above for information on the Fictitious Business Name Statement

## Dealers and Brokers – Product Sales, Continued

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**Requirements  
when licensed**

Once licensed, the pesticide broker must:

- Sell only pesticide products that have been registered for sale in California by DPR.
  - Sell pesticides in California labeled for agricultural use or considered a California restricted material only to registrants, licensed brokers, or pest control dealers (*3 CCR section 6302*)
  - Submit a quarterly report to DPR of the total dollars of sales (including zero sales) and total pounds or gallons of pesticides sold into or within California. (*FAC section 12406(b)*).
  - Pay a quarterly mill assessment to DPR *if the mill assessment has not been paid by the registrant or pest control dealer*. The mill assessment is based upon the total dollars of sales for sales into or within California of registered pesticides. (*FAC sections 12841 and 12841.1(a)*). Sales invoices shall show the mill assessment will be paid. (*FAC section 12847*)
  - Keep and retain records of all purchases, sales, and distribution of pesticides into or within California for four years at the principal place of business which may be outside of California. (*FAC section 12406(a)*)
-

## Section 3.1

### Pest Control Dealer Interpretation Scenarios

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<b>Introduction</b>	This section contains interpretations and descriptions of some situations and scenarios to help make licensing determinations.
<b>Beneficial organism dealers</b>	<b>Interprets FAC section 11407(b)</b>  Businesses that sell predators (lacewings, ladybird beetles, etc.), parasites, or disease-producing organisms for agricultural use are required to be licensed as pest control dealers.
<b>Cooperative supplying pesticides</b>	If a cooperative handles agricultural use pesticides or restricted use pesticides, it is responsible to meet certain specific requirements in order to be exempt from the pest control dealer license requirement. The cooperative can meet these requirements by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They must act only as a central receiving point for orders or billings and provide the licensed pesticide dealer that actually supplies the agricultural use pesticide or restricted use pesticide with information required in 3 CCR sections 6562 and 6568.</li><li>• The supplier must invoice the purchaser to specific purchases.</li><li>• The cooperative must maintain the ownership identity of any pesticide it stores for its members.</li></ul>
<b>Dealer records location</b>	<b>Interprets 3 CCR sections 6562(b), 6568(e), 6574(d), 6576, 6577</b>  If all sales occur outside of California (i.e., on the web), there is no requirement in law or regulation for a dealer to store invoices or other records in-state for inspection. However, should a CAC or DPR request a dealer's records (invoices, dealer's copy of a restricted material permit/OIN, certified applicator information or certified applicator statement, etc.) the dealer is required to provide the record.

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## **Pest Control Dealer Interpretation Scenarios, Continued**

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**In-ground pole, railroad tie or wood treatment and wood preservatives**

**Interprets FAC section 11407(d)**

Pesticides can be used to treat utility poles, fence poles, railroad ties, or wood to control or prevent wood destroying pests. Some of these may be federal restricted use pesticides (RUPs). Any retail store selling RUPs must be licensed as a pest control dealer in order to sell them to the end-user.

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**Dual-use pesticide products**

**Interprets FAC sections 11407(a) and 12101**

The term "dual-use products" refers to those pesticide product labels that have directions for both non-agricultural (usually home) and agricultural use and are packaged in a manner that is compatible with both uses. Only licensed pest control dealers may sell agricultural use pesticides regardless of the other uses that may appear on this labeling. A licensed dealer may sell dual-use products for non-agricultural uses, provided the sales record displays the purchaser's name and address and documents that the pesticide is for non-agricultural use.

The mere possibility that an agricultural use product could be used for the second use without a violation of FAC section 12973 is not sufficient to determine it is a dual use product. A determination of dual-use considers the apparent intent of the manufacturer, as well as any advertising or product presentation in the market place.

For example, a product's labeling has use directions for gopher burrows with no other site restrictions. This product can legally be used to treat gopher burrows on agricultural sites and non-agricultural sites based on this labeling. However, it is packaged in one pound containers and is commonly marketed in retail nurseries. If there is no evidence that the manufacturer has advertised it for agricultural use, the presence of this product in this sales setting (retail nursery) is insufficient to classify it as a dual-use product. In some cases, it is up to the registrant to fix the problem by separating the pesticide into two products – the method preferred by U.S. EPA.

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## Pest Control Dealer Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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**Dual-use  
pesticide  
products,**  
(continued)

Other evidence of a dual-use product may include:

- A “Worker Protection Standard” agricultural use requirements block.
- Non-agricultural listed sites such as: garden crop, ornamental and landscape plantings; interiorscapes; and recirculatory, aeroponic, and hydroponic systems located on residential (home) and industrial sites.
- The product labeling has rates from fluid ounces/acre to ounces per 1,000 square feet. These label rates indicate this product can be used both for agricultural and non-agricultural use respectively. Directions for use on pesticide labeling given on a “per acre” basis are generally used to indicate an intention for commercial, rather than, homeowner (consumer) use. Homeowner-use pesticides have directions to use the product at a rate of so much material “per 1,000 square feet,” or amount of material per gallon, pint, etc.
- The size of the product container is an indication that the product may be marketed for non-agricultural and agricultural uses. For example, if the product could be purchased via internet in 4 ounce, 16 ounce, quart and one gallon containers.

Tack and saddle shops and western wear stores that carry small container pesticide products labeled for use on or around horses are not required to obtain a pest control dealer's license. It is appropriate to inform retailers that they do have potential liability if they sell these products with dual-use labels without a license.

See also Compendium Volume 8, Section 1.1 *Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Pest Control Use* and Section 4.11 *Homeowner (Consumer) Use Products*.

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*Continued on next page*

## Pest Control Dealer Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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**Livestock  
sprays and  
spray devices**

### **Interprets FAC section 11701**

If a licensed pest control dealer sells and services spray devices for fly control in commercial stables, the dealer is performing pest control for hire. The process of mixing and diluting the pesticide concentrate and cleaning, calibrating or otherwise servicing the automatic spray device is considered to be providing a service and requires such persons to be licensed as a pest control business (PCB). If the sales of pesticides and pest control devices are always in connection with providing such a service, then the PCB license supersedes the need to have a pest control dealer license. However, if they also sell such products without providing the service, a pest control dealer license is required.

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**Pesticide sales  
without a  
recommendation**

### **Interprets 3 CCR section 6564(a)**

A dealer must ensure that the pesticide delivered corresponds to any recommendation which has been provided. When the individual making a sale of an agricultural use pesticide is not a licensed agricultural PCA, he/she may not give any instruction or advice on its use. When a pesticide is sold but no recommendation is made or provided, the invoice or delivery slip must state, "*No recommendation has been made by, or provided to, the seller concerning the use of the material covered by this invoice*" or similar notice. This notice must be delivered to the customer no later than the time the pesticide is delivered.

It is a violation of FAC section 12121(d) for any person subject to dealer licensing requirements to make false or fraudulent statements. It is a violation to state on an invoice delivery slip that no recommendation was made when, in fact, one was made by a PCA employed by the pest control dealer. Disciplinary action may be taken. It is the pesticide dealer's responsibility to know if his/her employees have made a recommendation.

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**Sales to  
structural pest  
control  
businesses**

See Section 9 *Structural Pest Control Licenses*.

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*Continued on next page*

## **Pest Control Dealer Interpretation Scenarios, Continued**

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**Veterinarians  
selling  
pesticides**

**Interprets FAC sections 11407(d) and 11408(d)**

Veterinarians selling pesticides requiring a restricted material permit or the supervision of a certified applicator must be licensed pest control dealers even though they may be writing prescriptions for the use of these pesticides.

Veterinarians selling only non-restricted or general use pesticides do not need a dealer license provided they are writing prescriptions for the "agricultural use" pesticides sold.

Normally, livestock supply stores selling "over-the-counter" to the general public must be licensed even if owned and run by a veterinarian.

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## Section 4

### Pest Control Business (PCB) Licensing

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**Pest control businesses require a DPR-issued license**

**Interprets FAC sections 11701 and 11701.5**

FAC section 11701 requires that any person who may “advertise, solicit, or operate as a pest control business” be licensed by DPR as a pest control business.

See Compendium Volume 8, pages 1-2 and 1-3 for a discussion of “pest control.” See *Business defined* in Section 4.4 below.

Each principal and branch location must have one individual in a supervisory position with an appropriate license or certificate. The individual’s categories on his/her must be in the proper categories to match the work performed by the company. See *Qualified individuals* below.

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**“Branch location” defined**

As defined in 3 CCR section 6000, a “Branch location” means “any location, other than the principal place of business, operated by a pesticide dealer or an agricultural pest control business to carry out licensed activities in California.” “Licensed activities” include, but are not limited to mixing and loading pesticides and storage of opened pesticide containers after application.

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**Qualified individuals**

Each licensed pest control business must have at least one individual with a QAL in a supervisory position with the appropriate pest control categories that relate to the work performed by the business, responsible for the pest control operations of each location. The qualified applicator cannot supervise the operations of more than one location at a time. (*FAC section 11701.5*)

Each licensed maintenance gardener pest control business may designate a QAL/QAC holder with Category B or a QAC holder Category Q as the responsible person. The QAL/QAC must be actively responsible for the legal and safe operation of pest control activities conducted by the business location and supervise the pest control operations performed by employees attached to the business location. (*FAC section 11704(a)*)

Businesses that perform pest control using an aircraft must employ an individual who holds a valid Journeyman Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Certificate (PCAPC). (*FAC section 11901*)

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## Section 4.1 Agricultural Pest Control Business (PCB)

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### Who needs the PCB license

Any person who advertises, solicits, or operates as a pest control business (see discussion of "business" in Section 4.4). This includes the following FAC sections 11403 and 11701:

- Ground and aerial pest control operations, including individuals performing pest control for the accommodation of their neighbors.
- Management companies (e.g., vineyard management or golf course management) when their services include pest control.
- Packinghouses, shippers, storage facilities, and other processors who treat agricultural commodities owned by another person or firm.
- Maintenance gardeners who engage in pest control for hire (more than incidental to that business's activities).

**Exception:** Cooperatives are excluded; see discussions on "Business Defined" and "Packing Houses and Other Processors" in Section 4.4.

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### Exemptions to the PCB license

- Structural pest control activities conducted within the scope of, and pursuant to, a valid structural pest control business license. (*FAC section 11531(a)*)
  - Preservation treatment of fabrics or structural materials. (*FAC section 11531(b)*)
  - Tree surgery involving the removal of diseased or infested tissues or applying disinfectants to wound cavities incidental to tree surgery, including woodcutters treating stumps. (*FAC section 11710*)
  - Household or industrial sanitation services. (*FAC section 11531(c)*)
  - Seed treatment incidental to regular business. (*FAC section 11531(d)*)
  - Live capture or removal of certain vertebrate pests, bees, or wasps without the use of pesticides. (*FAC section 11531(e)*)
  - Gardeners and landscape maintenance service companies, if no pest control work is included as part of their services.
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## Agricultural Pest Control Business (PCB), Continued

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### What's required to obtain a PCB license

An applicant for a PCB or Maintenance Gardener(MG) PCB license must:

1. Complete the *Pest Control Business License Application* (DPR-PML-042) for each principal and branch location **or** the *Pest Control Business License Application, Maintenance Gardener Only* (DPR-PML-004)<sup>4</sup> location and submit it and all required fees to DPR.
  2. Identify an individual who is responsible for the operation of the pest control business for each location listed on the application.
  3. Fulfill financial responsibility requirements. (*FAC section 11702(c)(2) and 3 CCR section 6524*)
  4. Submit a Fictitious Business Name Statement from the County Clerk's Office, if applicable<sup>5</sup> (*FAC section 11702(a)*).
  5. For a corporation, submit a Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State. (*FAC section 11702(a)*)
  6. Submit the initial license fees for the PCB's principal location and for each branch location **or** the initial license fee for a MG PCB license.
  7. Submit the *Supplemental Application Information for Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License* (DPR-PML-143) if applicable.
- 

### Requirements once licensed

Once licensed, each principal and branch PCB and MG PCB must:

- Register with the CAC in each county where business is conducted. (*FAC section 11732*)
- Retain agricultural pest control application completion notice records for two years. (*3 CCR section 6619*)
- Retain pesticide use records for two years. (*3 CCR section 6624*)
- Submit pesticide use reports (PURs) to the CAC. In addition, school and daycare PURs must be submitted to DPR annually. See Chapter 4 Section 3. (*3 CCR sections 6625, 6626(b), 6627 and 6628*)
- Have a copy of the restricted materials permit during the application.\* (*3 CCR section 6632*)
- Retain written recommendations and work orders for one year.\*(FAC section 12004)
- If the business performs pest control using an aircraft, have an individual who holds a valid Journeyman PCAPC (*FAC section 11901*).

\* Obtaining permits and retaining work orders/recommendations do not apply to MG PCBs

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<sup>4</sup> MG PCBs by default do not have branch locations.

<sup>5</sup> See *Pest Control Dealer* in Section 3 for information on the Fictitious Business Name Statement

## Section 4.2

### Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business (MG PCB)

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**Maintenance  
gardener pest  
control business  
license scope**

**Interprets FAC section 11704 and 3 CCR section 6531**

The Maintenance Gardener (MG) Pest Control Business (PCB) License applies to all landscaped areas without regard to location provided that the use of a pesticide for pest control is a minor, or complementary, aspect of the physical landscape maintenance work.

Generally, these businesses provide routine landscape care indoors, around public structures and commercial parks. They are required to obtain a MG PCB license and to have a qualified applicator in a supervisory position if they apply general use pesticides incidental to the primary business operations.

A “full” PCB license is required if pest control landscape maintenance is performed at cemeteries, parks, golf courses or similar areas or if pest control is too great a part of the MG PCB’s services.

A MG PCB supervised by an individual holding a Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) with Subcategory Q **can** use or supervise the use of general use pesticides. This individual **cannot** use or supervise the use of federal restricted use pesticides or California restricted materials. A MG PCB supervised by a QAL or QAC with Category B can use or supervise the use of federal restricted use pesticides or California restricted materials

By default, MG PCBs have one location.

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**Definition of  
“incidental”**

**Interprets FAC section 11704(a)**

The term “incidental” has common dictionary meanings of “minor items that are not particularized” or “being likely to ensue as a chance or minor consequence.” Thus “pest control for hire incidental to that business” is pest control that ensues from, or is a minor consequence of, a business’ overall landscape maintenance activities. This definition does not limit a MG PCB to a certain type of pesticide or number of applications. However, it requires that each pest control activity is obviously subordinate to, generated by, and done in conjunction with, the business’ main purpose of landscape maintenance.

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## Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business (MG PCB), Continued

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**Interpretation** FAC section 11704(b) includes the terms “commercial parks” and “surrounding structures.”

For purposes of interpreting those terms, a *commercial park* can be defined as “a tract of land where several commercial establishments (e.g., stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, or factories) are located. Business parks, industrial parks, office parks, and shopping centers or malls are commercial parks. A *surrounding structure* applies to “structures such as buildings, brick walls, fountains, fences, statues, etc. that are incidental to and placed near or close to ornamental or turf plantings.”

---

**Difference between the MG and “full” PCB License**

DPR requires applicants with the “full” PCB license to have at least one individual in a supervisory position who holds a QAL in the proper pest control category(ies) (*FAC section 11701.5*). By contrast, MGs can qualify for a MG PCB license by performing pest control incidentally to their maintenance gardener work and having a QAC in the pest control subcategory Q or by having a QAL or QAC category B (*FAC section 11704*). Individuals taking the QAC exam for category Q do not have to take the separate Laws and Regulations exam to obtain the certificate as applicable laws and regulations information have been incorporated into the examination.

This two-tiered licensing system matches regulatory requirements to the potential (or expected) level of threat posed to the public and the environment by specific types of pest control operations. DPR believes the lower qualification standard allowed to obtain the MG PCB license adequately protects the public and the environment because “incidental” pest control, as used in FAC section 11704, does not pose the same potential for harm as larger scale pest control operations.

See also *Maintenance gardeners and landscape services* in Section 4.4 below.

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**What’s required...**

See “*What’s required to obtain a pest control business license*” and “*Requirements once licensed*” in Section 4.1.

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## Section 4.3

### County Registration of PCBs and MG PCBs

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**Counties register pest control businesses**

In addition to DPR’s licensing of each PCB main and branch location and each MG PCB, the law requires annual registration with the CAC of each county prior to the business carrying out any licensed activity in that county.

County registration is necessary to ensure the Commissioner knows:

- Who is operating a PCB/MG PCB in the county;
  - Where PCBs/MG PCBs are operating in the county;
  - What types of licensed pesticide application activities are occurring in the county;
  - Where pesticide-related records, pesticides, and equipment are stored in the county; and
  - Where to send various notices and updates concerning regulatory issues that affect businesses, licensees, and individuals performing work in their county.
  - *This list is not all-inclusive.*
- 

**County registration authority and fees**

**Interprets FAC sections 11732 and 11734**

FAC section 11732 requires PCBs/MG PCBs operating in a county to register with the CAC, provide a list of equipment and any other information the CAC may require.

FAC section 11734 allows the county board of supervisors to establish “reasonable fees” for the registration of PCBs. MG PCBs are limited to a maximum registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per year.

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**CAC registration of the pest control business**

Each PCB location (principal and branch) must register with the CAC in each county where business is performed before advertising, soliciting, or operating in that county. A separate registration form must be completed for each branch and each county. MG PCBs by default have only one location.

CACs must retain a copy of the business license for their files.

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## County Registration of PCBs and MG PCBs, Continued

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**Home county registration (business license address)**

The registration of a licensed business in its home county should be done in-person. Only the QAL/QAC responsible for the pest control activities of that business should be allowed to register the business.

*Note:* The valid dates of the business license and the individual's QAL or QAC may differ. Check that both are valid before registration. CACs can also check DPR's list of valid licenses at:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/currlic.htm>.

Using the reproduction template (Appendix A), the CAC can make its own form for registering the business, as long as it contains the information from DPR's *Pest Control Business County Registration* (DPR-PML-059). Check for completeness of provided information, including:

- Business license valid for the year of intended operation
- Certified applicator with appropriate pest control category(ies)
- Completed *Pest Control Equipment Registration* form (DPR-ENF-058) or similar

PCBs based in the county and registering for the first time should have equipment inspected before completing registration. This doesn't preclude the need to inspect equipment while used in field.

Emphasize the following topics when you review pest control and pesticide regulations with the licensee, as applicable:

- New regulations or laws
- Pesticide worker safety requirements; storage, rinsing, and disposal of pesticides and emptied containers; required records and reports
- Restricted material permit conditions
- County policies, requirements and regulations
- Prior noncompliance documented by inspections

Collect the registration fees, if required by the county. The original signed form should be kept for county records. Registration may be amended later at no charge to add agents (QALs or QACs) or additional categories obtained by the qualified applicator.

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## County Registration of PCBs and MG PCBs, Continued

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**Home county registration (business license address)**  
(continued)

If an applicant plans to register in additional counties, check the latest *County Registration Requirements and Fees* on DPR's website at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/liccert.htm> to determine which counties accept mail-in registration. Make a copy and process, but do not sign additional forms for mailing to counties that accept mail-in registrations. Be sure your county name is on the hard copy of the registration form as the imprinting county.

---

**Out-of-county locations registration -- processing mailed-in applications**

PCBs and MG PCBs located outside your county may register by mail if county policy permits.

1. Check the business's home county registration form for completeness.
2. Check the completed form to make sure the business and individual licenses are valid for the year the applicant is registering.
3. Verify the appropriateness of the certified applicator categories.
4. Verify registration includes a completed *Pest Control Equipment Registration* form (DPR-ENF-058) or similar.
5. Make sure the registration applies to the location from which the operation will be conducted in your county.
6. Make sure the appropriate fee (if one is required) accompanies the form.
7. Check the records to see if the applicant previously registered in the county and if there were any problems.
8. The CAC or authorized person should sign and date the form.
9. Keep the original for county records, and provide the applicant a copy of the registration form.
10. Provide a list of current county policies and regulations.

Registrations may be amended later, with no added charge, to add agents (QALs or QACs) or additional categories obtained by the qualified applicator.

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## Section 4.4

### Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios

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**Introduction** This section contains interpretations and descriptions of some situations and scenarios to help make licensing determinations.

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**Aquatic pest control (Category F)** Persons who are in the business of applying pesticides to standing or running aquatic sites (e.g., lakes, ponds, canals, and similar water bodies) must:

- Hold a QAL with the Aquatic Pest Control Category, and
- Be licensed as an agricultural pest control business.

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**Microbial pest control (Subcategory P)** Persons who are in the business of applying:

- algaecides and antimicrobial pesticides to treat potable water lines (systems), dairy milk lines (systems), industrial and institutional cooling towers and evaporative condensers and similar sites
- sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) fumigant pesticides to sanitize wooden barrels and corks used in wine production
- algaecides and antimicrobial pesticides to treat water features such as indoor and outdoor fountains, ponds, cascades, waterfalls and streams

... must:

1. Hold a QAL with Category A or Subcategory P, and
2. Be licensed as a PCB.

*Note:* Category A - Residential, Industrial and Institutional, is broader and more comprehensive than Subcategory P. A business wishing to work outside of the scope of Subcategory P must have Category A.

---

**Biological control agents**

#### **Interprets FAC section 11701**

Persons in the business of releasing biological control agents, such as predators, parasites, and disease-producing organisms, must have a PCB license.

Persons engaged strictly in cultural practices to control a pest (cultivating, discing, or hoeing fields for weed control) do not require a PCB license.

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## **Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued**

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**Business,  
defined**

**Interprets FAC section 11701**

Historically, DPR has defined "business" in terms of having an "at risk" ownership in what is being treated or protected. In the mid-1970s, DPR set 5% as the level of ownership to meet the definition of or to qualify as a business. This was principally related to closed systems, rather than licensing, but is the only standard ever adopted. DPR has applied this basic ownership test to carrots (Grimmway and Bolthouse decisions), landscape installation (treatments during warranty period), right-of-way holders (having an interest in the right-of-way), and probably others over the years.

Providing goods or services (pest control services) for compensation (a fee for service) constitutes a business. A person is not engaged in the "business" of pest control when they treat or protect things they own, such as the growing crop. They may own the crop even if they don't own the land upon which it is being grown.

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**Chemical  
liability**

**Interprets 3 CCR section 6524(a)**

“Chemical liability” means liability for personal injury and property damage resulting from the use of pesticides, typically discovered immediately or within a few days or few months following the pest control work.

---

**Operator of the  
property**

Operator of the property is defined in 3 CCR section 6000 as “a person who owns the property and/or is legally entitled to possess or use the property through terms of a lease, rental contract, trust, or other management arrangement.”

The term "operator of the property" is not related to the scope of PCB licensing. That term does not appear in FAC section 11701. The activity prohibited without a license by FAC section 11701 is "pest control business."

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## **Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued**

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### **Management firms**

#### **Interprets FAC section 11701 and 3 CCR section 6000**

For purposes of this discussion, a "management firm" is a business that provides operational assistance, support, or other activities on a "fee for service" basis. Common examples include vineyard management companies and golf course management companies. A management firm should not be confused with a "partner" which has an ownership interest in the operation.

Management firms using pesticides within the scope of their operations have long posed licensing challenges: are they considered the operator of the property, a pest control business, or both? Phrased another way, when does the activities of a management firm cross over into an activity that is a pest control business, and therefore, requires a PCB license from DPR?

Management firms are required to hold a PCB license when the management firm contracts with the owner or lessee of the property and performs services that include pest control operations. The license would still be required even though the management firm may not advertise or represent itself as doing pest control. A separate charge for agricultural pest control would not have to be made for the use to be considered advertising, soliciting, or operating as a pest control business.

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### **Fee exempt neighborhood operator**

#### **Interprets FAC section 11709**

The purpose of the Fee Exempt (Neighborhood Operator) PCB license is to allow equipment sharing and cooperation between neighboring growers and to provide for pest control on small acreage and in areas where it is economically unfeasible to hire a licensed PCB. It is not designed to allow a grower to operate as a PCB in competition with licensed PCBs. The relationship of the acreage and number of the neighboring parcels and the intent must be considered in relation to the requestor's own farming operation in order to determine whether the applicant qualifies for a fee exempt PCB license.

Applicants complete the *Pest Control Business License* (DPR-PML-042) application and check the appropriate box to request fee-exempt status. They also submit the *Fee Exempt Pest Control Business* form (DPR-PML-006) which includes supplemental information about their operations and the location of their neighbor's property. The business license will indicate "fee exempt" to avoid confusion.

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## Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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**Fee exempt neighborhood operator**  
(continued)

All other aspects of the fee-exempt pest control business license are similar to the regular pest control licensing procedures. The fee exempt operator must:

- Have financial liability insurance
  - Have a qualified individual to supervise all applications
  - Register in the county
  - Maintain records
  - Comply with all other laws and regulations that pertain to pest control businesses.
- 

**Foliar nutrient spray application**

Individuals or firms who apply only foliar nutrient sprays as a service are not required to have a PCB license, as these products are not pesticides (*FAC section 12756*). However, if a foliar nutrient spray product is intended for use as a pesticide, registered as a pesticide, contains a pesticide, or is mixed with a pesticide, then a PCB license is required.

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**Landscape contractors**

Landscape contractors are generally responsible for replacing any plants that die within a warranty period. Therefore, they are considered to still have an ownership interest in those plants. Any pest control is on property they "own" and a license is not required.

If the contract is for more than one year or is renewed for continued maintenance work, a PCB license would be required.

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**Landscape work at construction sites**

Pest control is sometimes done in conjunction with construction work such as paving parking lots or driveways, establishing new landscape, or building homes or other structures. If this is done by the contractor incidental to his/her construction, a PCB license would not normally be required. In this situation, the pest control is on property (ground, plants, or materials) considered to be "owned" or "operated" by the contractor and incidental to the construction.

Firms regularly doing this kind of pest control as subcontractors to construction or landscaping companies are required to be licensed.

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## Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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**Livestock  
sprays and  
spray device  
dealers**

A business that services spray devices for fly control in commercial stables, dairy barns, etc., must have either a PCB license or a structural pest control business license. Such services include the process of mixing and diluting the pesticide concentrate and cleaning, calibrating or otherwise servicing the automatic spray device.

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**Maintenance  
gardeners and  
landscape  
services**

**Interprets FAC sections 11701 and 11704**

Gardeners and landscape maintenance companies, including indoor plant maintenance companies, must be licensed as a PCB if they use pesticides or use other pest control methods to maintain the garden or landscaped areas.

The *Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License* can only be used if the pest control work, including pesticide use, is incidental to the maintenance activities. If the MG PCB is supervised by a QAC with subcategory Q, **only general use pesticides may be used under this certification; restricted materials may not be purchased or used.** If maintenance gardeners wanted to use restricted pesticides they would need a QAC or QAL in category B.

If maintenance gardeners or landscape maintenance companies engage in pest control work separate from the maintenance gardening or landscape maintenance activities, they must be licensed as “full” PCBs. This includes “occasional” pest control work with a small hand-sprayer or hose-end sprayer and the use of snail bait or pesticides provided by a homeowner if done as part of the service. These situations are more than “incidental” use as described in Section 4.2 above.

Whether or not an itemized charge is made for the pest control work has no bearing on the licensing requirement. A maintenance gardener who maintains a supply of pesticides shows evidence of offering pest control as part of his/her service.

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## Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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**Packing houses and other processors**

Processors (packing houses, hullers, driers, etc.) applying pesticides (such as fungicides or fumigants to fruits, nuts, grains, or vegetables) must be licensed as PCB if, at the time of treatment, the commodity is owned by the other party and pest control is part of the service provided for compensation. This also includes fungicides or insecticides applied to seeds if it is more than incidental to the regular business (i.e., a company who is in the business of treating seed).

A cooperative is owned by its members and if it handles only commodities from members a license would not be required.

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**Structural sprays and spray device dealers**

A business that services spray devices in locations such as restaurants, offices, etc., requires a structural pest control business license (*B&PC section 8552*). Such services include the process of mixing and diluting the pesticide concentrate and cleaning, calibrating, or otherwise servicing the automatic spray device. If you find a company in violation of this section, refer the information to the Structural Pest Control Board.

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**Swimming pool service companies**

**Interprets FAC section 11531(c)**

Persons engaged in the business of servicing swimming pools with a pesticide are exempt from the licensing requirement and are not required to obtain a PCB license. Worker safety requirements must still be followed. Additionally, the company must still follow the requirements of the local health department relative to the safe use of chlorine in the swimming pool.

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**Vertebrate pest control**

**Interprets FAC section 11531(e)**

Trappers engaged in the business of controlling vertebrate pests in areas outside of structures must be licensed as a PCB. *Division 6, Pest Control Operations (except Chapter 6 starting with FAC section 12001)* does not apply to any person while engaged in live capture and removal or exclusion of vertebrate pests, bees, or wasps, without the use of pesticides. Vertebrate pests include bats, raccoons, skunks and squirrels, but not mice, rats, or pigeons. This section does not exempt a person from the provisions of Chapter 1.5, Division 3, of the California Fish and Game Code.

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*Continued on next page*

## Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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**Woodcutting:  
incidental pest  
control**

**Interprets FAC section 11701**

Pest control is sometimes done in conjunction with woodcutting activities, such as a woodcutter who simply harvests a tree and then treats the stump with a pesticide. Examples include a growth inhibitor or herbicide soon after to control the re-sprouting of the stump or a fungicide applied to prevent root disease. This activity is generally exempt from requiring a pest control business license, regardless of the intent of the landowner for future use of the site. (This is an extension of the intent of the exemption provided for those individuals engaged in tree surgery in *FAC section 11710*.)

However, the PCB license exemption above is nullified if any of the following are true:

- Per FAC section 11701, if the woodcutter or logging contractor is advertising that it will apply pesticides, soliciting pest control for hire or operating as a pest control business, the woodcutter or logging contractor needs to be licensed by DPR as a PCB.
- If stump treatment takes place after a reasonable amount of time has passed from tree harvest and stump treatment this application would no longer be “incidental” to the harvest and a PCB license is required. For example, if the logging crew moves to another area within the harvest or leaves the site, and another crew arrives later to treat the stumps.
- If the woodcutter or logging contractor hires a sub-contractor to apply pesticides, the sub-contractor is required to be a PCB licensed by DPR.

The removal of trees or brush with pesticides as a service, which might include all or some of the wood in payment, primarily to promote timber or grass production or other use, is considered pest control for hire. Therefore, a person engaged in this type of work is required to have a PCB license.

See also Chapter 4, Section 3 *Operator ID and Site ID numbers*.

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*Continued on next page*

## **Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued**

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**Wood,  
in-ground pole,  
railroad tie  
treaters, wood  
treatment and  
wood  
preservative**

The service of treating utility poles, fence poles, railroad ties, or wood with pesticides to control or prevent wood destroying pests is considered pest control and requires a pest control business license. The pest control category for the QAL is Subcategory L, *Wood Preservatives*.

A business that applies preservative pesticides to wood in a permanent treatment plant is exempt from the pest control business license (*FAC section 11531*). Such treatments include the use of pesticides in the manufacture of utility poles, fence posts, stakes, etc. If the pesticide requires supervision of a certified applicator a QAL or QAC is still required.

Any treatment to existing structures is considered structural pest control.

See also Section 3.1 *Pest Control Dealer Interpretation Scenarios* and Section 7 *Private Applicator Certificate*.

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**Work orders  
vs.  
recommenda-  
tions**

See Section 2.2 *Interpretation of agricultural PCA scenarios*.

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*Continued on next page*

## Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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### Pest Control Equipment Rental

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**Basic principles** A company that only sells, leases, or rents pest control equipment is not required to be licensed as a PCB. It may do initial setup and calibration of the equipment. Maintenance or repairs (changing oil, fueling, replacing spark plugs, fixing a flat tire, etc.) required to keep the equipment running and are not related to pest control may also be performed. Any further calibration or "in-field" adjusting would require a PCB license.

*Note:* If an employee works with or contacts equipment potentially contaminated with pesticides, the employee must be trained as a handler.

A PCB license is required of all persons who lease, rent, or provide pest control equipment **and** who mix and dilute the pesticide concentrate, or clean, calibrate, or otherwise service the equipment on the renter's property. When this service is provided as part of a lease or rental agreement, the service is covered by a part of the fee.

If the only service provided is mechanical repair and initial calibration performed on the property of the person who owns the equipment, a PCB license is not required.

If the spray equipment is loaned and the above-described services are provided at no cost, a PCB license is not required.

Occasionally, an equipment owner will provide an operator (applicator) along with the equipment. If the equipment owner pays the operator's salary and worker's compensation, the owner would have to be a licensed PCB. The equipment owner is not required to be licensed if the renter of the equipment pays the operator's salary and compensation.

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## Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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### Mold Remediation

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**Background** The Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) position regarding SPCB licensees is that, "Molds and mildew are not structural pests and do not fall within the scope of our licensees identification activities. Licensed structural pest control operators and field representatives are not required to identify and report the presence of molds and/or mildew. They are required to report conditions that may foster molds and/or mildew growth. Examples of these conditions are, but are not limited to: shower leaks, roof leaks, plumbing leaks and other excessive moisture conditions within or under structures."<sup>6</sup>

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**SPCB licensing requirements** The SPCB interprets B&PC section 8505 as not applicable to mold remediation, and therefore, SPCB licensing is not required of companies doing this work.

Based on EPA's assessment, DPR finds that businesses using pesticides to eliminate or control mold or fungi pest invasions/infestations such as on exterior stucco walls, interior dry wall/wallboard, and ceilings in residences and other structures should be licensed with the SPCB. However, DPR acknowledges SPCB's authority to interpret the B&P Code.

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**U.S. EPA publications on mold and mildew** U.S. EPA has issued various publications regarding mold in homes and other structures. They make various statements about mold and the damage it can cause; for example stating "... mold may be in places such as drywall, wallpaper, paneling, inside walls around pipes, the surface of walls behind furniture, inside ductwork, and in roof materials." and that "Mold damages what it grows on. The longer it grows, the more damage it can cause ...."

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*Continued on next page*

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<sup>6</sup> Letter July 25, 2001 from Chief Enforcement Officer, Structural Pest Control Board, *Identification and remediation of molds and mildews by structural pest control licensees*.

## **Pest Control Business Interpretation Scenarios** Continued

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**U.S. EPA publications on mold and mildew,**  
(continued)

In the U.S. EPA publication, *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*, U.S. EPA states that "... one purpose of mold remediation is to prevent damage to building materials. Molds gradually destroy the things they grow on .... Mold growth can eventually cause structural damage to a school or large building .... In the case of a long-term roof leak, for example, molds can weaken floors and walls ...." To view the entire document, go to the U.S. EPA web page at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-08/documents/moldremediation.pdf>.

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**DPR licensing requirements**

DPR finds that businesses doing mold remediation are exempt from an agricultural pest control business license pursuant to FAC section 11531(a). DPR does, however, apply pesticide registration and use requirements to mold remediation.

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## Section 5

### Pest Control Aircraft Pilot

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**Who needs the pest control aircraft pilot certificate (PCAPC)**

Any individual who operates any aircraft for the purpose of pest control. This includes the following (*FAC section 11901*):

- Pilots employed by a licensed pest control business.
- Pilots employed by vector control agencies or regions.
- Pilots who do pest control on their own property (private applicators).

Starting in 2018, there will be a change in the law for Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) pilots and vector control technician UAS pilots. This section (and Section 5.2) will be updated as more guidance is provided to CACs.

---

**Apprentice pilot and journeyman pilot certificates**

There are two levels of PCAPCs in California that allow individuals to apply pesticides by aircraft – the apprentice pilot (AP) certificate and the journeyman pilot (JP) certificate.

#### **Apprentice Pilot**

California law requires that any individual who applies pesticides by air must first serve as an apprentice pilot for one year (*FAC section 11907*) and meet other requirements as specified below. This applies even though the pilot may have considerable aerial pest control experience in other states.

An apprentice pilot may only conduct pest control activities under the direct and personal supervision of an individual who holds a journeyman's certificate (*FAC section 11909*).

#### **Journeyman Pilot**

A journeyman's certificate shall be issued to an applicant who:

1. Currently holds an apprentice certificate, submits all required information and fees to DPR, and passes a written examination, or
2. Has held a journeyman's certificate within the previous two calendar years.

In addition, the journeyman pilot applicant must have operated a fixed-wing aircraft for a minimum of 150 hours or a nonfixed-wing aircraft (helicopter) for a minimum of 50 hours.

Pest Control Businesses that perform pest control using an aircraft must employ an individual who holds a valid journeyman PCAPC. (*FAC section 11901*).

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## Pest Control Aircraft Pilot, Continued

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**What's  
required to  
obtain a pest  
control aircraft  
pilot certificate**

An applicant for an **apprentice** pilot certificate must:

1. Submit a completed *Aircraft Pilot Pest Control Certificate Application*, DPR-PML-005. (*FAC sections 11903 and 11502.5(b)*)
2. Submit proof of a valid Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Commercial Pilot Certificate, or if spraying his/her own property, a valid FAA Private Pilot Certificate. (*FAC section 11901*)
3. Submit proof of a valid FAA Medical Certificate. (*FAC section 11901*)
4. Submit an initial application fee.
5. Submit an examination fee for each examination to be taken.
6. Pass the Laws and Regulations and the Apprentice Pilot Examinations. (*FAC section 11905*)

An applicant for the **journeyman** pilot certificate must:

1. Submit a completed *Aircraft Pilot Pest Control Certificate Application*, DPR-PML-005. (*FAC sections 11903 and 11502.5(b)*)
2. Submit proof of a valid FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate, or if spraying his/her own property, a valid FAA Private Pilot Certificate. (*FAC section 11901*)
3. Submit proof of a valid FAA Medical Certificate. (*FAC section 11901*)
4. Submit proof that within the last two years, served as either a:
  - California JP (*FAC section 11906*); or
  - AP for one year, and a *Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Statement of Supervision and Apprenticeship by Journeyman* form (DPR-PML-010) and have at least 150 hours in a fixed wing aircraft or at least 50 hours in a helicopter. (*FAC section 11907*)
5. Submit the examination fee for the Journeyman Pilot Certificate Examination.
6. Pass the Journeyman Pilot Certificate Examination. (*FAC section 11905*)

An apprentice pilot may submit more than one *Statement of Supervision and Apprenticeship* form to meet the requirements for the Journeyman Pilot Examination. This information must be documented by the signature of the journeyman pilot(s) responsible for supervision of the apprentice pilot's flying time in pest control activities.

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## Pest Control Aircraft Pilot, Continued

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### Requirements once licensed

Once licensed, the apprentice pilot or journeyman pilot must:

- Accumulate at least 20 hours of approved continuing education every two years before certificate renewal. Of the 20 hours, at least four hours pertaining to pesticide laws and regulations and at least four hours pertaining to aerial pest control equipment and application techniques must be included. (*3 CCR section 6511(a)*)
  - Register with the CAC in each county where aerial pest control is performed. (*FAC section 11921*)
- 

### Supervision of apprentice pilots

FAC section 11909 prohibits an apprentice pilot from operating a pest control aircraft without the direct and personal supervision of a journeyman pilot. To promote uniformity among the various situations where supervision is required, DPR policy regarding apprentice supervision is that the standards for supervision of non-certified applicators should apply. (*3 CCR section 6406*)

The journeyman pilot must be aware of conditions at the application site and be available to direct and control the application. The actual or potential hazards or sensitivity of the application must be considered in determining how close or available the journeyman pilot must be.

In some cases, it may be necessary that the supervising journeyman pilot be "on site" while the application is taking place. In all cases, the apprentice pilot must be able to contact the supervising journeyman pilot immediately.

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### Medical certificate and supervision

If the journeyman pilot is not medically cleared to fly (does not provide proof of a current FAA Medical Certificate), the journeyman pilot **cannot** apply pesticides by air. However, the journeyman pilot may continue to supervise and communicate with other pilots employed by the PCB.

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## Section 5.1

### County Registration of Pest Control Aircraft Pilots

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**County registration of pilots**

Prior to conducting pest control operations in any county, all pilots must register with the CAC (*FAC section 11922*). Registration is not required if the pilot is only involved in agricultural operations such as seeding or fertilizing.

Review the pilot's pest control performance record for the past year. Discuss any problems with the pilot and ask what mitigating measures will be taken to avoid repeat problems. A letter may be used if registering by mail.

Apprentice pilots must list the names of journeymen pilots who will supervise them. The journeyman named on the form must be currently registered in that county. (*FAC section 11909*)

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**In-person county registration**

Be sure the PCAPC issued by DPR is valid for the year the applicant is registering or check DPR's list of valid licenses at:  
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/currlic.htm>.

1. Using the reproduction template (Appendix A), the CAC can make its own form for registering the Pilot, as long as it contains the information from *Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Registration* form (DPR-PML-009). Check the registration form for completeness.
2. Check for an appropriate and valid FAA commercial pilot's certificate and a current medical certificate. The medical certificate is valid for only one year after the date of issuance. Make a copy and attach it to *your* copy of the pilot's completed county registration form.
3. Collect a registration fee, if charged by your county.
4. The CAC or authorized person should sign and date the form.
5. Keep the original for county records, and provide the applicant a copy of the registration form.

If necessary, process the registration forms the applicant needs to register in additional counties. Do not sign them. Give the forms to the applicant to send, with a reminder that other counties may require fees for registration.

Review county policies and regulations (or mail the information) with the applicant.

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## County Registration of Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, Continued

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**Registration by  
mail**

1. Check the Pilot's home county registration form for completeness.
  2. Check the completed form to make sure the license is valid for the year the applicant is registering.
  3. Make sure the appropriate fee (if one is required) accompanies the form.
  4. Check the records to see if the applicant previously registered in the county and if there were any problems.
  5. The CAC or authorized person should sign and date the form.
  6. Keep the original for county records, and provide the applicant a copy of the registration form.
  7. Provide a list of current county policies and regulations.
-

## Section 5.2

### Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Interpretation Scenarios

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**Introduction** This section contains interpretations and descriptions of some situations and scenarios to help make licensing determinations.

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**Private pilots** Pilots performing pest control on their own property are required to be certified as pest control aircraft pilots. If beginning as an apprentice, they must have a certified journeyman pilot provide the required supervision. (*FAC section 11901*)

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**Vector control district pilots** Pilots employed by public agencies, such as vector control districts, must be certified and meet the same supervision requirements as the private pilots above.

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**Unmanned aircraft systems** An unmanned aircraft system (UAS) is comprised of two parts:

1. an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) without a human pilot onboard, which is
2. controlled from an operator (the pilot) on the ground.

Assembly Bill 527 (Caballero), Chapter 404, Statutes of 2017, was signed into law on October 2, 2017. It amended FAC sections 11901, 11902, 11905, and 11910 and added section 11902.5, the FAC for licensing requirements for UAS pilots and UAS vector control technicians.

DPR is studying requirements related to UAS applying pesticides. This section will be updated as more guidance is provided to CACs.

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## Section 6

# Qualified Applicator License and Qualified Applicator Certificate

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**Introduction** DPR issues licenses and certificates to businesses and individuals to perform pest control. This section describes requirements for two types of commercial applicators: Qualified Applicator Licenses (QAL) and Qualified Applicator Certificates (QAC).

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### Qualified Applicator License (QAL)

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**Who needs the qualified applicator license (QAL)** Any individual who supervises the application of either a restricted use or a general use pesticide made by a licensed pest control business, and is responsible for the safe and legal operation of the pest control business. (*FAC sections 11701-11709*)  
**OR,**  
Any individual who uses or supervises the use of federally restricted use pesticide or California restricted material for any purpose or on any property other than that provided by the definition of a "private applicator." (*3 CCR section 6000*)

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**What's required to obtain the QAL** An applicant for a qualified applicator license must:

1. Submit a completed *Qualified Applicator License Application*, DPR-PML-001. (*FAC section 12201*)
2. Submit an initial application fee and an examination fee for each examination to be taken. (*FAC sections 12201 and 11502.5*)
3. Pass the Laws and Regulations examination and at least one pest control category examination.

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## Qualified Applicator License and Qualified Applicator Certificate, Continued

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**Pest control categories under the QAL**

The pest control categories and subcategories available for the QAL (*FAC section 12203*):

- A. Residential, Industrial, and Institutional
  - B. Landscape Maintenance
  - C. Right-of-Way
  - D. Plant Agriculture
  - E. Forest
  - F. Aquatic
  - G. Regulatory
  - H. Seed Treatment
  - I. Animal Agriculture
  - J. Demonstration and Research
  - K. Health-Related
  - L. Wood Preservative
  - M. Antifouling Tributyltin
  - N. Sewer Line Root Control
  - O. Field Fumigation
  - P. Microbial Pest Control
- 

**Continuing education**

**Interprets 3 CCR section 6511**

Once licensed, a QAL shall accumulate continuing education hours to renew the license. These hours must be collected while the license is valid before certificate renewal:

- A QAL holder with only subcategories M, N or P needs only 8 hours of approved continuing education (including at least two hours pesticide laws and regulations). A QAL holder with only category H needs 4 hours (including at least two hours laws and regulations)
  - For all other categories, the QAL holder needs at least 20 hours of approved continuing education. Four of the 20 hours must cover the topic of pesticide laws and regulations.
- 

**Maintenance gardener that does NOT apply pesticides**

If the maintenance gardener does **not** apply **any** pesticides, then a maintenance gardener business license and an individual qualified applicator certificate or license is not required from DPR; however, be sure the applicant checks local licensing requirements.

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## Qualified Applicator License and Qualified Applicator Certificate, Continued

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### Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC)

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**Who needs the qualified applicator certificate (QAC)**

Any individual who uses or supervises the use of federal restricted use pesticides or California restricted materials for any purpose or on any property other than that provided by 3 CCR section 6000 definition of "private applicator."

This certificate is also required by anyone who is in the business of maintenance gardening and performs **pest control that is incidental to such business**. In this situation, the qualified applicator certificate holder must possess the landscape maintenance pest control category (Category B) or the maintenance gardener pest control category (Subcategory Q) on their certificate, and must also obtain a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License.

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**What's required to obtain the QAC**

An applicant for a qualified applicator certificate must:

1. Submit a completed *Qualified Applicator Certificate Application*, DPR-PML-001A. (*FAC section 14152*)
  2. Submit an initial application fee and an examination fee for each examination to be taken. (*FAC sections 14152 and 11502.5*)
  3. Pass the Laws and Regulations examination (except Subcategory Q) and at least one pest control category examination.
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## Qualified Applicator License and Qualified Applicator Certificate, Continued

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**Pest control categories under the QAC**

The pest control categories and subcategories available for the QAC (*FAC section 14153*):

- A. Residential, Industrial, and Institutional
  - B. Landscape Maintenance
  - C. Right-of-Way
  - D. Plant Agriculture
  - E. Forest
  - F. Aquatic
  - G. Regulatory
  - H. Seed Treatment
  - I. Animal Agriculture
  - J. Demonstration and Research
  - K. Health-Related
  - L. Wood Preservative
  - M. Antifouling Tributyltin
  - N. Sewer Line Root Control
  - O. Field Fumigation
  - P. Microbial Pest Control
  - Q. Maintenance Gardener
- 

**Requirements when licensed**

**Interprets 3 CCR section 6511**

Once licensed, a QAC must accumulate continuing education hours to renew the license. These hours must be collected while the license is valid before certificate renewal:

- A QAC holder with only subcategories M, N, P or Q need only 8 hours of approved continuing education (including at least two hours pesticide laws and regulations). A QAC holder with only category H needs 4 hours (including at least two hours laws and regulations)
  - For all other categories, the QAC holder needs least 20 hours of approved continuing education. Four of the 20 hours must cover the topic of pesticide laws and regulations.
- 

**Maintenance gardener that does NOT apply pesticides**

If the maintenance gardener does **not** apply **any** pesticides, then a maintenance gardener business license and an individual qualified applicator certificate or license is not required from DPR; however, be sure the applicant checks local licensing requirements.

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## Section 6.1 QAL and QAC Categories

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### Introduction

The following is intended to assist CAC staff with general information to help pest control applicators identify the most appropriate category for the type of pest control they will be conducting and to properly enforce business supervision licensing requirements. See also Section 10 *Quick Reference Charts*.

These pest control applicator categories apply to both qualified applicator licenses and qualified applicator certificates with the exception of the Maintenance Gardener certificate (Subcategory Q).

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### Category A, Residential, Industrial, and Institutional

This category includes the use of pesticides in and around human dwellings, industrial establishments (including packing plants, manufacturing and processing plants, warehouses, grain elevators, and factories), or institutions (including schools, hospitals, and office buildings). Non-landscaped outside areas (such as storage yards or tank farms) directly related to the operation of the building may also be treated under this category.

Structural pest control as a business is not allowed within the scope of this category. Structural pest control businesses are licensed by the Structural Pest Control Board.

This category does not allow the use of pesticides for landscape maintenance (see Category B, *Landscape Maintenance*) or treatment to control or prevent insects or fungi from infesting wood (see Subcategory L, *Wood Preservation*).

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### Category B, Landscape Maintenance

This category includes the use of pesticides to establish or maintain natural or planted ornamental and turf landscape areas and other outside areas around buildings. Typical areas included in this category are residential yards (including home gardens and orchards), parks and other recreation areas, schoolyards, vacant lots, storage yards, cemeteries, golf courses, green belts, and similar sites. It may also include landscaped street medians and sidewalk areas, and also areas such as walkways and parking lots directly related to landscaped areas. This category also includes the use of pesticides in landscaped areas in enclosed shopping malls, and indoor plants.

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## QAL and QAC Categories, Continued

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**Category C,  
Right-of-Way**

This category includes the use of pesticides in the maintenance of roads, highways, power lines, telephone lines, pipelines, canals, railroads, or other similar areas except for direct application to running or standing water. It may include landscaped right-of-way areas.

This category does not allow wood treatment to control termites or fungi-infested wood. Subcategory L is the proper category for those treatments.

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**Category D,  
Plant  
Agriculture**

This category includes the use of pesticides in the production of food, fiber, or ornamental crops as well as on grasslands and non-crop agricultural areas except when directly applied to running or standing water. It includes applications to rice and similar crops grown in wet or flooded fields.

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**Category E,  
Forest**

This category includes the use of pesticides in forests, forest nurseries, and forest seed-producing areas **except** for direct application to running or standing water.

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**Category F,  
Aquatic**

This category includes the use of pesticides purposefully applied to standing or running water **except** for health-related, regulatory, demonstration and research, sewer line root control purposes, or applications to rice or similar crops grown in wet or flooded fields.

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**Category G,  
Regulatory**

This category includes the use of pesticides in official programs for the control of regulated pests. "Regulated pest" means a specific organism considered by a State or federal agency to be a pest, requiring regulatory restrictions or control procedures in order to protect the host, public, or the environment.

This category is not required of contractors who apply pesticides provided that they hold all categories necessary to cover the types of pest control to be done. Additionally, this category is not required of any individual as long as he/she holds specific categories covering the types of pest control being done even though the pests may coincidentally be regulated pests.

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*Continued on next page*

## QAL and QAC Categories, Continued

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**Category H,  
Seed Treatment**

This category includes the use of pesticides to protect seed for planting.

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**Category I,  
Animal  
Agriculture**

This category includes the use of pesticides on animals and to places where animals are confined **except** when applied directly to running or standing water. Barns, sheds, and corrals can be treated under this category to control animal-infesting pests. Treatment to control termites or other pests infesting barn or corral wood are under Subcategory L or a structural license.

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**Category J,  
Demonstration  
and Research**

This category includes individuals who demonstrate proper techniques of application or conduct field research with pesticides. This category is not required of applicators who demonstrate proper techniques provided they all hold specific categories covering the types of pest control being done. Additionally, licensing is not required of contractors who apply pesticides for research provided that the appropriate specific category is held. Note that a Research Authorization (RA) may also be required for those doing experimental pesticide applications.

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**Category K,  
Health-Related**

This category includes use of pesticides in official programs for management and control of pests having medical and public health importance.

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**Subcategory L,  
Wood  
Preservation**

This subcategory includes the use of pesticides to protect wood from wood-damaging pests. This subcategory allows application of wood preservation materials within the scope of Categories A (Residential, Industrial, and Institutional), C (Right-of-Way) or I (Animal Agriculture).

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**Subcategory M,  
Antifouling  
Paints or  
Coatings  
Containing  
Tributyltin**

This subcategory of Category A (Residential, Industrial, and Institutional) allows the use of antifouling paints or coatings containing tributyltin (a restricted use pesticide) to control the growth of aquatic organisms on the hulls of ships. Although a vessel may be considered a structure, a structural license cannot be used to treat vessels with tributyltin. The sole licensing authority to certify the individual who is using or is responsible for the supervision of the use of antifouling tributyltin paint lies with DPR.

**Note:** As of October 2017, there are no tributyltin products with active registration in California.

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*Continued on next page*

## QAL and QAC Categories, Continued

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**Subcategory N,  
Sewer Line  
Root Control** This subcategory of Category A (Residential, Industrial, and Institutional) allows the use of pesticides, or certain substances, methods, or devices to control roots in sewer lines.

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**Subcategory O,  
Field  
Fumigation** This subcategory allows the use of restricted use fumigants to control pests in field soil only. It is mandatory for all PCB-applied field fumigations (*3 CCR section 6536*). Holding this category also exempts the individual from having to complete additional training on the fumigant required by labels. This category does not include fumigation of potting soil, soil in greenhouses, or tree/vine hole sites.

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**Subcategory P,  
Microbial Pest  
Control** This subcategory of Category A allows the use of sulfur dioxide fumigant to treat corks and wooden barrels used in wine production, disinfection of potable water systems, industrial cooling towers and evaporative condensers, and other settings in pesticide labeling.

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**Subcategory Q,  
Maintenance  
Gardener** This subcategory of Category B (Landscape Maintenance) allows the incidental use of general use pesticides, or certain substances, methods, or devices to control pests in landscape areas for hire only under the scope of a maintenance gardener pest control business license. Subcategory Q is only available under the QAC, and QACs possessing only Subcategory Q ***cannot purchase or use federal restricted use pesticides or California restricted materials.***

Maintenance gardening activities include mowing lawns, engaging in general yard cleanup, and/or taking care of plants and turf and the incidental application of general use pesticides in:

- Outdoor ornamental and garden areas surrounding public structures, such as buildings, brick walls, fountains, fences, statues;
  - Outdoor ornamental and garden areas surrounding commercial parks, such as, offices, restaurants, warehouses, factories, stores, shopping centers, malls;
  - Parks, golf courses, cemeteries, but only on ornamental or turf plantings near buildings (clubhouses, pro shops, restrooms) that are distinct and separate from the plantings that constitute open space landscaping.
-

## Section 6.2

### QALs/QACs and “Not for Hire” Supervision of Restricted Pesticides

Interprets FAC section 14015 and 3 CCR sections 6000, 6406 and 6428

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**Background** State law requires a “commercial applicator” to be licensed in the correct category when performing pest control for hire as part of a licensed pest control business (see FAC section 11705).

State law (FAC section 14015) also requires that restricted materials “only be possessed or used by, or under the direct supervision of” a private or commercial applicator. These California restricted materials (RMs) are found in 3 CCR section 6400 and include federal restricted-use pesticides (RUPs).

---

**Licensing** The prospective licensee must pass the pesticide laws and regulations exam provided by DPR to obtain the QAL or QAC\*. This exam is more rigorous than the exam taken by private applicators.

In addition, the applicant must pass at least one category. It is most logical to study for the exam in the applicant’s chosen field (i.e., a golf course superintendent would want to study for the Category B exam).

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**Interpretation** Subject to the restrictions (\*) below, if an individual will use or supervise the use of RUPs or RMs on property owned, leased or rented by him/her or his/her employer, this individual can be issued the restricted materials permit (RMP) or operator identification number (OIN) and/or be the supervising certified applicator if the individual:

1. Has a valid QAL or QAC\* issued by DPR, and
2. **The applications are not “for hire,”** that is the individual is not conducting applications as part of activities for which licensing as a PCB is required (for example, not an employee of a vineyard or golf course management company)

An individual with a valid QAL or QAC\* includes the required laws and regulations needed to issue the OIN or RMP and purchase, use or supervise these use, regardless of the category held by the individual.

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## QALs/QACs and “Not for Hire” Supervision of Restricted Pesticides, Continued

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- \*Restrictions**      There are restrictions on what a QAL/QAC holder can purchase and use:
1. The purchase/use is related to activities of a pest control business. In those instances, the “commercial applicator” is limited to purchasing and using pesticides within the scope of the category(ies) on the license (*FAC section 11705*).
  2. QAC holders with subcategory Q are not certified applicators and cannot purchase, use, or supervise the use of RUPs or California restricted materials (*3 CCR section 6531*).
  3. If the purchase/use is related to field fumigation, then category “O” is required (*3 CCR section 6536*).
- 

- Examples**      Examples include:
- Production Ag: A permit applicant with a property growing an agricultural commodity with a valid QAL or QAC does not need Category D to be issued a production ag RMP or OIN.
  - Golf course: A superintendent on a golf course (not operated by a management company) with a valid QAL or QAC does not need to have Category B to be issued a RMP or OIN for the course.
  - Winery: An individual holding a valid QAL or QAC does not need to have Categories A or P to supervise the use of sulfur-dioxide in a winery and can be issued the OIN for the facility.
  - Employees of a health department do not need to have Category K to use or supervise the use of pesticides for medical or public-health importance.

Notwithstanding the above, CACs should evaluate each situation and ensure that the use of restricted pesticides is adequately supervised following the guidance found in Compendium Volumes 4 and 8.

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**Note**      U.S. EPA on January 4, 2017, proposed amendments to 40 CFR part 171—Certification of Pesticide Applicators. These changes were subsequently delayed by U.S. EPA until May 22, 2018, and may undergo revision.

The regulation, as adopted, would have required a certified applicator (private or commercial) when supervising the use of a restricted pesticide by a non-certified applicator to be certified in each category applicable to the supervised pesticide use. Should 40 CFR part 171 be revised in the future, DPR will update CACs on those changes.

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## Section 7 Private Applicator Certificate (PAC)

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**Who needs the PAC**

**Interprets 3 CCR section 6000**

- An individual who uses or supervises the use of a restricted use pesticide or California Restricted Material for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity<sup>7</sup> on property owned, leased, or rented by that individual or the individual's employer.
  - A householder who uses or supervises the use of a restricted use pesticide or California Restricted Material outside the confines of a residential dwelling for the purpose of controlling ornamental, plant or turf pests on residential property owned, leased, or rented by that householder.
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**Additional information**

For detailed information on Private Applicators, please see Compendium Volume 3, *Restricted Materials and Permitting*, Chapter 4, *Private Applicator Certification*.

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**Property management company**

The definition of "private applicator" from 3 CCR section 6000 allows applications on property the private applicator leases or rents, or works as an employee of the owner, lessor, or renter of the property. The definition does not include the person(s) managing the property under a management agreement. See the section on *Management Firms* in Section 4.4 above.

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**Wine barrels and corks**

Wine barrels and corks are not an "agricultural commodity." The PAC does not cover the application of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in commercial processing of wine (barrels or corks). A QAL or QAC is required for this industrial use. See DPR's SO<sub>2</sub> flier at: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/factshts/so2.pdf>

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<sup>7</sup> As defined by 40CFR section 171.2(a)(5) on July 1, 2013: any plant, or part thereof, or animal, or animal product, produced by a person (including farmers, ranchers, vineyardists, plant propagators, Christmas tree growers, aquaculturists, floriculturists, orchardists, foresters, or other comparable persons) primarily for sale, consumption, propagation, or other use by man or animals.

## Private Applicator Certificate (PAC), Continued

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**In-ground pole, railroad tie treaters, wood treatment and wood preservation**

Pesticides can be used to treat utility poles, fence poles, railroad ties, or wood to control or prevent wood destroying pests. A householder looking to use a restricted use pesticide as a wood preservative would not meet the definition of “private applicator” in 3 CCR section 6000 and must instead obtain a QAC or QAL.

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## Section 8

### Farm Labor Contractor (FLC)

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**Who needs the FLC license?**

The law considers the following individuals or organizations “farm labor contractors”:

- any person/legal entity who, for a fee, employs people to perform work connected to the production of farm products to, for, or under the direction of a third person.
  - any person/legal entity who recruits, supplies, or hires workers on behalf of someone engaged in the production of farm products and, for a fee, provides board, lodging, or transportation for those workers, or supervises, times, checks, counts, weighs, or otherwise directs or measures their work, or disburses wage payments to these persons.
  - A “day hauler” who is employed by a farm labor contractor to transport, or who for a fee transports, by motor vehicle, workers to render personal services in connection with the production of any farm products to, for, or under the direction of a third person.
- 

**Exemptions from the FLC license**

Farm labor contractor does not include:

- A commercial packing house engaged in both the harvesting and the packing of citrus fruit or soft fruit for a client. (Labor Code (LC) section 1682.4)
  - A “nonprofit” corporation or organization performing services for its members (LC section 1682.5(a))
  - Individuals who are actually employees and not independent contractors (LC section 1682.5(b))
  - Custom harvesters (DIR Guidance)
- 

**Verifying if the FLC is licensed**

Use the online FLC license verification database at:  
<https://cadir.secure.force.com/RegistrationSearch>

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## Farm Labor Contractor (FLC), Continued

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### To become licensed in California

Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Labor Commissioner's Office's (also known as the Division of Labor Standard Enforcement [DLSE]) website explains the steps to become licensed and an explanation of how to fill out the forms. Please see: <<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Obtainalicense.html>>

One of the steps is to have registered with the federal government as a FLC and received a federal registration certificate. Please fill out the application at: <[https://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/fts\\_wh530.htm](https://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/fts_wh530.htm)>

DLSE has an online system for applying for a license. Please visit <[https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/FLC\\_new\\_license.htm](https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/FLC_new_license.htm)>

New applicants must take an exam, and licensed FLCs are required to take the exam every two years, or sooner if the FLC violated a law related to labor contracting or at the request of the Labor Commissioner. Please see [https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/FLC\\_Exams\\_and\\_Continuing\\_Education.htm](https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/FLC_Exams_and_Continuing_Education.htm)

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### County Registration

LC section 1695(a)(8) requires a FLC to register annually with the CAC of the county or counties where the FLC has contracted with a grower or growers.

LC section 1695(b) allows the board of supervisors of a county to establish a registration fee.

One of the purposes of registering with the CAC is to provide an opportunity to inform the FLC about field worker safety as it relates to pesticide use. For example, there are regulations that require farm labor contractors to inform or train their employees about the hazards of pesticides as it relates to them working in fields.

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## Section 8.1 FLC Interpretation Scenarios

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**Introduction** This section contains interpretations and descriptions of some situations and scenarios to assist CACs in determining when to contact the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Labor Commissioner's Office (also known as the Division of Labor Standard Enforcement [DLSE]).

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**DIR-DLSE jurisdiction** DIR-DLSE has authority to regulate FLCs and interpret the Labor Code and determine who is or is not a FLC.

CACs conducting fieldworker safety inspections or illness investigations are primarily looking for compliance with pesticide laws and regulations. However, CAC or DPR staff may come across situations where the status of the employer as a FLC is unclear or the CAC or DPR believes the employer should be licensed as a FLC. In those cases, CAC or DPR staff should refer the situation to DIR's DLSE for a determination.

CAC staff can send an email to [FLC@dir.ca.gov](mailto:FLC@dir.ca.gov) and should get a response the next business day. As an alternative, DLSE has two offices that handle FLC licensing inquiries. CACs can contact the licensing units at DLSE's Fresno office at (559) 248-1893 or Oakland office at (510) 285-3399.

When contacting DLSE, CACs are requested to provide the following information:

- a) Legal entity name (sole proprietor, partnership, LLC, corporation) of acting FLC (licensed or unlicensed)
- b) Name of individual, partner, LLC member, corporate officer
- c) Address of business if known
- d) Grower information if any and address location (so DLSE's enforcement unit can stop by and check)
- e) Phone number if known

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## FLC Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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### **DIR-DLSE interpretation**

The nomenclature given to the operation or entity or the primary business of the operation or entity is not the determining factor of whether an FLC license is required. The issue is whether the entity performs any of the duties described in Labor Code section 1682(b) for a fee. If a fee is paid and there is no specific exclusion contained in the law, the entity is a FLC and must be licensed.

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### **Planting, harvesting & management**

An “agricultural employer” who provides ground preparation, planting harvesting, and/or other related services and also provides plants, fertilizer, equipment, expertise, labor, fuel, chemicals and other incidental materials. This employer may receive in compensation:

- a percentage of the planting or harvest;
- a set dollar amount per ton harvested;
- a set dollar amount per acre prepared, planted, or harvested; or
- reimbursement of certain non-labor expenses plus one of the above options

DLSE has interpreted that each of these results in employment for the benefit of a third party (owners or lessees of the land), the compensation is a “fee” as defined by LC section 1682(e) and thus the “agricultural employer” is required to be licensed as a FLC.

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### **Management companies**

In this scenario, there is agreement between the manager (i.e., a farm or vineyard management company) and the owner for the manager to provide the labor, equipment, materials and supplies and perform the farming duties. Whether the manager would have to consult with the owner and keep the owner advised on the status of the crop would not have any bearing on whether the person or entity was a FLC. The management company would be required to have a FLC license.

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## FLC Interpretation Scenarios, Continued

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### **Sharing employees**

In this scenario, three growers have agreed that one of the growers will employ all of the workers and perform all of the operations on the land owned by all three growers. In this example, the employing entity must be licensed as a FLC. DLSE found that the “employing entity” falls into the FLC category inasmuch as that entity would employ workers to render personal services in connection with the production of farm products under the direction of a third person (the other two growers).

It does not matter that the employer may also employ those same workers on his own land, the important consideration is the category of that employer when he uses those employees to perform the described services on the land of a third person or under the direction of a third person.

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## Section 9

# Structural Pest Control Licenses

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### Introduction

Structural pest control applicators and businesses are required to obtain a license or certificate to conduct pest control from the Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB). The laws and regulations are in the Business and Professions Code (B&PC).

The type of license or certificate required is dependent on what pest control activity is being done, by whom, and in what setting.

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### Structural pest control, defined

Structural pest control is defined in B&PC section 8505, in part, as follows: ‘Structural pest control’ and ‘pest control’ as used in this chapter are synonymous. With certain exceptions, it is, with respect to household pests and wood destroying pests or organisms, or such other pests which may invade households or other structures, including railroad cars, ships, docks, trucks, airplanes, or the contents thereof, the engaging in, offering to engage in, advertising for, soliciting, or the performance of, any of the following: identification of infestations or infections; the making of an inspection or inspections for the purpose of identifying or attempting to identify infestations or infections of household or other structures by such pests or organisms.

B&PC section 8555(b) exempts “persons engaged only in agricultural pest control work under permit or license by DPR or a CAC.” However, this does not mean that regulation under the Structural Pest Control Act may be circumvented by performing structural pest control under an agricultural pest control license.

Thus, both laws recognize that certain activities can be construed as either “structural” or “agricultural” pest control, and the effect of the exemptions in such cases is to require one or the other class of license, but not both.

Control of pests invading structures is strictly structural pest control, whether carried on, within, or outside of the structure. Control for the purpose of eliminating ants or earwigs as garden or orchard pests, or to assist in the control of honeydew-producing insects, is strictly agricultural pest control, even where treatment is applied adjacent to a structure, and incidentally prevents invasion of the structure.

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## Structural Pest Control Licenses, Continued

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**Structural pest control, defined**  
(continued)

Any application of a pesticide to plants, irrespective of their location in respect to a structure, is agricultural pest control, except for incidental contact of foliage or plants with a pesticide arising from structural pest control activities. Pesticide applications made to indoor plants in malls, offices, etc., would be agricultural pest control. Control of fleas, mosquitoes, and similar pests to humans and their pets, in or around a structure, including treatment of lawn areas nearby for fleas, is structural pest control.

Depending on the intent of the application, control of pests infesting a structure and its contents is structural pest control. See also Section 10, *Quick Reference Charts*.

Removal of live bees from a structure does not require a structural pest control license. The use of a pesticide to destroy diseased bees in a structure to prevent infection of an apiary, however, can be construed as agricultural pest control.

Businesses that treat roofs with a pesticide(s) to control fungi, algae, bacteria, etc., would require a structural pest control registration.

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**“License” vs  
“Register”**

The B&PC uses the term "**register**" when referring to the state licensing procedure for structural pest control businesses. It uses the term "**license**" when referring to the state licensing procedures for individuals. FAC sections 15204 and 15205 require licensed Structural pest control companies and designated individuals to register with the CAC of each county where they work.

*Note:* To maintain consistency between Sections 9, 9.1 and 9.2 and the rest of this chapter, the term "**license**" is used to describe the state requirements and "**register**" to refer to the county requirements.

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## Structural Pest Control Licenses, Continued

### Categories of structural pest control

The SPCB licenses both businesses and individuals to perform specific types or categories of structural pest control work. A company and individual may only perform work defined within each category for which they are licensed. The following are categories of structural pest control (*B&PC section 8560*) in which the company engages:

- Branch 1 - Fumigation
- Branch 2 - General Pest Control
- Branch 3 - Termite Control

Each structural pest control company must have a qualifying manager for each category (branch) of pest control in which the licensed company is engaged in business. (*B&PC section 8560*)

### License period and renewal cycle

SPC License Type	License Period	Renewal/Expiration Date
Company, Principle	Lifetime	N/A
Company, Branch	Lifetime	N/A
Operator	3 years	June 30
Field Representative	3 years	June 30
Applicator	3 years	June 30

### Restricted materials sales to Structural Pest Control licensees

#### Interprets FAC section 14006.6(d)

Restricted material permits are not required for licensed Structural Pest Control Businesses. This exemption applies only to pesticides used in structural pest control, such as methyl bromide, chloropicrin, and Avitrol. However, structural pest control businesses are not exempt from applicator certification requirements, and a copy of the license, certificate, or signed statement required by 3 CCR section 6568(b) is still mandatory for the purchase of federal restricted use pesticides.



## Section 9.1 Structural Pest Control Business Licenses

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**Who needs the business license**

A pest control company must be licensed (registered) with the SPCB if it:

- Secures structural pest control work.
  - Submits bids for or contracts for structural pest control work.
  - Identifies pest infestations or infections.
  - Conducts inspections.
- 

**Exemptions from the business license**

- Public utilities operating under the regulations of the State Railroad Commission (with certain specified exceptions). (*B&PC section 8555(a)*)
  - Persons engaged only in agricultural pest control work under permit or license of DPR or a CAC. (*B&PC section 8555(b)*)
  - Pest control performed by persons on property owned, leased, or rented by them. (*B&PC section 8555(c)*)
  - Government agencies, authorized representatives of an educational institution or state or federal agency engaged in research or study of pest control, or engaged in investigation or preparation for expert opinion or testimony if not on their own behalf. (*B&PC section 8555(d)*)
  - Certified architects and registered civil engineers acting within their professional capacity. (*B&PC section 8555(f)*)
  - Licensed contractors preserving wood. (*B&PC section 8556*)
  - Persons engaged in live capture and removal of vertebrate pests, bees or wasps without the use of pesticides (*B&PC section 8555(g)*)
- 

**Qualifying manager**

Each structural pest control business must designate an individual or individuals who hold a Structural Pest Control Operator's license to act as the qualifying manager or managers. The qualifying manager supervises the daily business of the company and must be available to supervise and assist the company's employees.

The qualifying manager(s) must be licensed as a Structural Pest Control Operator in one or any combination of the following categories of structural pest control (*B&PC section 8560*) in which the company engages:

- Branch 1 - Fumigation
  - Branch 2 - General Pest Control
  - Branch 3 - Termite Control
- 

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## Structural Pest Control Business Licenses, Continued

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**Qualifying manager**  
(continued)

There must be a qualifying manager for each category (branch) of pest control in which the licensed company is engaged in business. (*B&PC section 8610*)

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**What's required to obtain the company license**

After an individual obtains an Operator's license or is in the process of obtaining an Operator's license, a completed application form is submitted to the SPCB. Once the company's name is approved, the SPCB will mail a company registration packet to provide additional information and allow the company to pay the required fees.

See the SPCB's website at <<http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/howdoi/pr.shtml>> for the required forms and more information.

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**Branch offices**

**Interprets B&PC sections 8611 and 8612**

Each branch office must have a separate license. The structural pest control company business shall submit a separate application for branch office registration for each branch office location and pay the required fee.

The registered company must designate an individual licensed by SPCB to supervise each branch office. The branch supervisor shall be an individual who is licensed as a Structural Pest Control Operator or a Field Representative. The branch supervisor shall be available to assist employees in that office.

---

**Requirements once licensed**

Once licensed, each principle and branch structural pest control business must:

- Register with the CAC in each county where business is conducted. (*FAC section 15204(a) and/or 15204.5(a)*)
  - Retain fumigation log or pesticide use records for three years. (*16 CCR section 1970*)
  - Submit monthly summary pesticide use reports (*B&PC section 8505.17(c)*) or negative pesticide use reports (*3 CCR section 6628(b)*) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month to the CAC.
  - Each pesticide use report shall have a pesticide use stamp or stamp number that is purchased from the SPCB. (*B&PC section 8505.17*)
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## Section 9.2

### Structural Pest Control Individual Licenses

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**Fingerprint  
(Live Scan) &  
background  
check**

As a consumer protection measure, the SPCB verifies the identity and the accuracy of an applicant's criminal history.

All new applicants for a Structural Pest Control Operator (OPR), Field Representative (FR), and Applicator licenses shall submit fingerprint identification and undergo a background investigation.

The SPCB recommends that applicants complete the Live Scan/Fingerprint process before taking the examination since the SPCB must receive the Live Scan/Fingerprint results prior to issuing a license. The Live Scan/Fingerprint process can take from two weeks to two months or more.

---

**Continuing  
education  
requirements  
once licensed**

The applicant must provide proof of completing the required continuing education hours or pass a continuing education examination (and pay the required renewal fee) when renewing his/her license.

The number and types of continuing education hours is dependent on the branch(es) of license held. Information can be found on the SPCB website at <http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/howdoi/renew.shtml>.

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**County  
registration**

Branch 1 structural pest control OPRs and FRs must register each calendar year with the CAC's office in each county in which fumigation work is conducted. In-person or mail registration varies by county.

Structural pest control OPRs who serve as the qualifying manager for Branch 2 and Branch 3 pest control companies must also register each calendar year with the CAC's office in each county in which work is conducted.

Branch 2 and Branch 3 structural pest control applicators **do not** have to register with the CAC's office.

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## Structural Pest Control Individual Licenses, Continued

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### Structural Pest Control Operator (OPR) License

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**Who needs the structural pest control operator license**

Any individual who:

- Serves as the qualifying manager of a structural pest control company.
  - Secures structural pest control work, submits bids for, or contracts on behalf of a structural pest control company.
  - Identifies pest infestations or infections.
  - Conducts inspections.
- 

**Exemptions from the structural pest control operator license**

- Public utilities operating under the regulations of the State Railroad Commission (with certain specified exceptions). (*B&PC section 8555(a)*)
  - Persons engaged only in agricultural pest control work under permit or license of DPR or a CAC. (*B&PC section 8555(b)*)
  - Pest control performed by persons on property owned, leased, or rented by them. (*B&PC section 8555(c)*)
  - Government agencies, authorized representatives of an educational institution or state or federal agencies engaged in research or study of pest control, or engaged in investigation or preparation for expert opinion or testimony if not on their own behalf. (*B&PC sections 8555(d-e)*)
  - Certified architects and registered civil engineers acting within their professional capacity. (*B&PC section 8555(f)*)
  - Persons engaged in live capture and removal of vertebrate pests, bees or wasps without the use of pesticides (*B&PC section 8555(g)*)
- 

**What's required to obtain the operator license**

To obtain an **initial** OPR license an applicant must:

1. Complete the required “Board Approved Pre-Operator Courses”
2. Complete the Live Scan/Fingerprint and Background Investigation
3. Submit an application for examination, with required fee
4. Pass an Examination
5. If successful, submit a completed Certificate of Training and Experience and the required fee to the SPCB

See the SPCB’s website at <http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/howdoi/pr.shtml> for the required forms, fees and exam information.

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## Structural Pest Control Individual Licenses, Continued

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### Structural Pest Control Field Representative (FR) License

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**Who needs the structural pest control field representative license**

Any individual who:

- Secures structural pest control work, submits bids for, or contracts on behalf of a structural pest control company.
  - Identifies pest infestations or infections.
  - Conducts inspections.
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**Exemptions from the structural pest control field representative license**

- Public utilities operating under the regulations of the State Railroad Commission (with certain specified exceptions). (*B&PC section 8555(a)*)
  - Persons engaged only in agricultural pest control work under permit or license of DPR or a CAC. (*B&PC section 8555(b)*)
  - Pest control performed by persons on property owned, leased, or rented by them. (*B&PC section 8555(c)*)
  - Government agencies, authorized representatives of an educational institution or state or federal agencies engaged in research or study of pest control, or engaged in investigation or preparation for expert opinion or testimony if not on their own behalf. (*B&PC section 8555(d-e)*)
  - Certified architects and registered civil engineers acting within their professional capacity. (*B&PC section 8555(f)*)
  - Persons engaged in live capture and removal of vertebrate pests, bees or wasps without the use of pesticides (*B&PC section 8555(g)*)
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**What's required to obtain the field representative license**

To obtain an **initial** FR license an applicant must:

1. Complete the Live Scan/Fingerprint and Background Investigation
2. Submit an application for examination, with required fee
3. Pass an Examination
4. If successful, submit a completed Certificate of Training and Experience and the required fee to the SPCB

See the SPCB's website at <<http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/howdoi/fr.shtml>> for the required forms, fees and exam information.

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## Structural Pest Control Individual Licenses, Continued

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### Structural Pest Control Applicator

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**Who needs the structural pest control applicator license**

Any individual not a FR or OPR applying pesticides in Branch 2 or Branch 3 employed by a licensed company with SPCB. (*B&PC section 8564.5*)

*Note:* An individual licensed as a structural pest control applicator is not a certified applicator (*3 CCR section 6000*) for purposes of using or supervising the use of restricted materials. Consequently, these individuals also must receive annual pesticide handler training per *3 CCR section 6724*.

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**Additional information**

After passing the written examination in Branch 2 or 3, a licensed applicator may apply any chemical for a period not to exceed three years, at which time the individual must pay a renewal fee. (*B&PC section 8564.5(c)*)

Current law does not authorize a general applicator to apply any chemical in Branch 1 - Fumigation.

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**What's required to obtain the applicator license**

To obtain an **initial** structural pest control applicator license an applicant must:

1. Complete the Live Scan/Fingerprint and Background Investigation
2. Submit an application for examination, with required fee
3. Pass an Examination
4. If successful, submit a completed Certificate of Training and Experience and the required fee to the SPCB

See the SPCB's website at <<http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/howdoi/app.shtml>> for the required forms, fees and exam information.

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## Section 10

### Quick Reference Charts

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**Introduction-  
Chart of Types  
of Licenses and  
Certificates –  
Scenarios**

The following charts summarize the type of license or certificate required for pest control businesses in various example scenarios. This is just a quick reference guide.

These determinations are based on:

- the specific pest control activity,
- who is performing the pest control, and
- the specific setting.

These examples of various scenarios are only a guide. For further clarification contact the EBL assigned to your county.

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## Quick Reference Charts, Continued

<b>Guidance in Determining Business License Type Required -- Structural or Agricultural Pest Control</b>			
<b>Agricultural Pesticide Use<sup>8</sup></b>			
Site / Situation	License Required	Section Cited	Description of Pest Control Conducted
<b>Adjacent to structure, garden, or orchard pest</b>	QAL Cat A, Cat B or QAC Subcat Q	FAC §§ 11701 or 11704	Control (for the purpose of eliminating ants, earwigs, garden or non-crop orchard pests, or to assist in the control of honeydew producing insects) even where treatment is applied <b>adjacent</b> to a <b>structure</b> and incidentally prevents invasion of the structure.
<b>Landscape Plants &amp; Turf</b>	QAL Cat B or QAC Subcat Q	FAC §§ 11701 or 11704	Any application of a pesticide to existing landscape <b>plants &amp; turf</b> , <u>irrespective of their location in respect to a structure</u> , except for incidental contact of foliage or plants with a pesticide arising from structural pest control activities.  Any pesticide application made directly to interiorscapes in business buildings, office complexes, malls, houseplants within households.
<b>Diseased bees, apiary</b>	QAL Cat A or Cat I	FAC § 11701	The use of a pesticide to destroy <b>diseased bees</b> to prevent infection of an <b>apiary structure</b> . Category depends on setting (e.g.: landscape vs. nursery vs. industrial).
<b>Africanized honeybees, agricultural use setting</b>	QAL Cat A or Cat I	FAC §§ 11701 & 12203(b)	Use of a pesticide for control and removal of <b>Africanized honeybees</b> in an “ <b>agricultural use</b> ” setting. (See definitions of “agricultural use”)  Category depends on setting (e.g.: managed apiary vs. residential).
<b>Public health-related</b>	QAL Cat K	FAC § 11701	Businesses who work under a contract with an official program (i.e., Vector Control Agency, County Health Department, etc.) to apply public-health related pesticides to non-production ag and agricultural use settings.
<b>Sprinkler and drip irrigation lines</b>	QAL Cat A or Cat P	FAC § 11701	Use of algacides and antimicrobials used to treat interior walls of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems (irrigation lines) found in fields, vineyards and orchards.

<sup>8</sup> This is based on the definition of “Agricultural Use” from FAC 11408. See also Compendium Volume 8, Section 1.1



## Quick Reference Charts, Continued

Guidance in Determining Business License Type Required -- Structural or Agricultural Pest Control Structural Pesticide Use <sup>9</sup>			
Site / Situation	License Required	Section Cited	Description of Pest Control Conducted
Structures, interior or exterior (outside surfaces)	Structural Branch 2 or 3	B&PC § 8550	<p>a. Control of ants, earwigs, cockroaches, silverfish, termites, birds, or rodents invading structures is strictly structural pest control, whether carried on <b>within or outside</b> of the <b>structure</b></p> <p>b. Application, with the intent to prevent invading pests, <b>within</b> storage structures when a commodity is not present is strictly structural pest control (i.e., pre-treatment of a storage area prior to storage of a commodity).</p> <p>c. Treatment of storage structure's <b>outside</b> areas (such as cracks, crevices, along outside baseboards and walls) to prevent infestation of stored commodities is considered structural pest control.</p>
Structures, in or around	Structural Branch 2	B&PC § 8550	Control of <u>pests to humans and their pets</u> , (it would apply to pests other than fleas, for example, mosquitoes) <b>in or around a structure</b> , including treatment of outside areas to control nearby nest or pest reservoir is considered structural pest control.
Roofs	Structural Branch 3	B&PC § 8550	Treatment to <b>roofs</b> of structures with a pesticide(s) to control fungi, algae, etc. would require a structural pest control license.
Removal of bees from Structures	Structural Branch 2	B&PC § 8550	The use of a pesticide to control or remove <b>bees</b> from a <b>structure</b> would require a structural pest control license. However, live removal of bees, wasps, and certain vertebrate pests ( <b>without</b> the use of a pesticide) from a structure does <b>not</b> require a structural or agricultural pest control license per <b>B&amp;PC § 8555(g)</b> and FAC § 11531.
Africanized honeybees in structures	Structural Branch 2	B&PC §§ 8550 & 8565.6	Control and removal of <b>Africanized honeybees</b> from <b>structures</b> is structural pest control. The Pest Control Operators of California is SPCB-approved to offer certification in Africanized honeybee control, but it is not required to obtain the license.
Mold in residential or institutional structures			<p>Control of non-wood destroying organisms (mold).</p> <p>At this time neither the SPCB nor DPR require a license for this type of work.</p>

<sup>9</sup> Structural pest control is the control of household pests (including but not limited to rodents, vermin and insects) and wood-destroying pests and organisms or such other pests which may invade households or structures, including railroad cars, ships, docks, trucks, airplanes, or the contents thereof.  
<http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/about/whatis.shtml>

## Quick Reference Charts, Continued

Guidance in Determining Business License Type Required -- Structural or Agricultural Pest Control Non-Agricultural Pesticide Use <sup>10</sup>			
Site / Situation	License Required	Section Cited	Description of Pest Control Conducted
<b>Structures or its contents</b>	Branches 1, 2, or 3  QAL Cat A	B&PC §§ 8550 & 8555  FAC § 11701	The intent of the application is the primary determinant: a. When treating <b>structures</b> , incidental treatment of any contents (commodities) is okay and is strictly structural pest control b. Direct treatment of <b>non-food or non-feed commodities</b> (e.g., dunnage, furniture), can be done under <u>either</u> license c. Direct treatment of postharvest or stored <b>agricultural commodities</b> is agricultural pest control
<b>Servicing devices</b>	Branch 2  QAL Cat I	B&PC § 8505  FAC § 11701	<b>Servicing spray devices in:</b> a. Structures such as warehouses, restaurants, office buildings is <u>structural pest control</u> b. Structures located on a farm (such as stables and barns) are an agricultural use but can be done under <u>either</u> license.
<b>Africanized honeybees, non-ag use setting</b>	QAL Cat A	FAC §§ 11701 & 12203(b)	Use of a pesticide for control and removal of <b>Africanized honeybees</b> in a “ <b>non-agricultural use</b> ” setting. (See definitions of “agricultural use” and “non-agricultural use”)
<b>Potable water lines, dairy milk lines</b>	QAL Subcat P or Cat A	FAC § 11701	Sanitizing institutional and industrial potable water lines, dairy milk lines, and other similar facilities. (See definition of “non-agricultural use”)
<b>Cooling towers &amp; evaporative condensers</b>	QAL Subcat P or Cat A	FAC § 11701	Treatment of cooling towers and evaporative condensers in Institutional and industrial sites. (See definition of “non-agricultural use”)
<b>Wine barrels and corks</b>	QAL Subcat P or Cat A	FAC § 11701	Use of sulfur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) to disinfect wine barrels and corks.
<b>Water features</b>	QAL Subcat P or A	FAC § 11701	Use of algacides and antimicrobial pesticides to treat water features such as indoor and outdoor fountains, ponds, cascades, waterfalls, and streams.

<sup>10</sup> Includes six exemptions from Agricultural use listed in FAC section 11408: Home, Institutional, Industrial, Structural, Vector Control, Veterinarian. See also Compendium Volume 8, section 1.1

**Quick Reference Charts, Continued**

<b>Guidance in Determining Business License Type Required -- Structural or Agricultural Pest Control            Non-Agricultural Pesticide Use</b>			
Site / Situation	License Required	Section Cited	Description of Pest Control Conducted
<b>Public health related</b>	QAL Cat K	FAC § 11701	Businesses who work under a contract with an official program (i.e., Vector Control Agency, County Health Department, etc.) to apply public-health related pesticides to non-agricultural use settings.
<b>Post-harvest fungicides</b>	QAL Cat A	FAC § 11701	A company renting, leasing, or providing equipment and services for applying post-harvest fungicides in a packing house.

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