

|

**Illinois Pesticide Act, 415 ILCS 60/1**

**7. "Certified applicator"**

- A. "Certified applicator" means any individual who is certified under this Act to purchase, use, or supervise the use of pesticides which are classified for restricted use.
- B. "Private applicator" means a certified applicator who purchases, uses, or supervises the use of any pesticide classified for restricted use, for the purpose of producing any agricultural commodity on property owned, rented, or otherwise controlled by him or his employer, or applied to other property if done without compensation other than trading of personal services between no more than 2 producers of agricultural commodities.
- C. "Licensed Commercial Applicator" means a certified applicator, whether or not he is a private applicator with respect to some uses, who owns or manages a business that is engaged in applying pesticides, whether classified for general or restricted use, for hire. The term also applies to a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of pesticides, whether classified for general or restricted use, for any purpose or on property of others excluding those specified by subparagraphs 7 (B), (D), (E) of Section 4 of this Act.
- D. "Commercial Not For Hire Applicator" means a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of pesticides classified for general or restricted use for any purpose on property of an employer when such activity is a requirement of the terms of employment and such application of pesticides under this certification is limited to property under the control of the employer only and includes, but is not limited to, the use or supervision of the use of pesticides in a greenhouse setting. "Commercial Not For Hire Applicator" also includes a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of pesticides classified for general or restricted use as an employee of a state agency, municipality,  
  
"Licensed Operator" means a person employed to apply pesticides to the lands of others under the direction of a "licensed commercial applicator" or a "licensed commercial not-for-hire applicator" or other duly constituted governmental agency or unit.

**TITLE 8: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**  
**CHAPTER I: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**SUBCHAPTER i: PESTICIDE CONTROL**  
**PART 250 ILLINOIS PESTICIDE ACT**  
**SECTION 250.90 COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR, COMMERCIAL NOT FOR**  
**HIRE APPLICATOR AND PUBLIC APPLICATOR: CERTIFICATION,**  
**TESTING AND LICENSING**

---

**Section 250.90 Commercial Applicator, Commercial Not For Hire Applicator and Public Applicator: Certification, Testing and Licensing**

- a) A person may make application to the Director to become licensed as a licensed commercial applicator, commercial not for hire applicator or licensed public applicator **only after successfully demonstrating comprehension of the general competency standards (Section 250.110) and one or more of the technical category areas of pesticide use (Section 250.120).**
- b) A person establishing qualifications for certification to become a licensed commercial applicator, commercial not for hire applicator or public applicator for the first time or needing to re-establish qualifications for certification shall apply to the Director for examination in accordance with Sections 10, 11 and 11.1 of the Act.
- c) Closed book examinations for certified commercial, commercial not for hire or public applicators will be scheduled by the Director at least once annually at various regional locations throughout the State. Examinations will also be scheduled by prior appointment at appropriate state regional offices at other times during the year.
- d) A person desiring certification or recertification shall demonstrate competency in pesticide use by answering 70% or better of the examination questions correctly. A person must successfully demonstrate competence in the general competency standard before being permitted to take specific technical category examination(s).
- e) A person may only make two attempts to successfully demonstrate competence in any one normal work day. The examination can only be taken a maximum of three (3) times within any six month period.

**Section 250.100 Licensed Operator (Commercial Operator, Commercial Not For Hire Operator and Public Operator): Testing and Licensing**

- a) **A person may make application to the Director to become a licensed operator only after successfully demonstrating comprehension of the general competency standards (see Section 250.110). A license will not be issued unless the person is working under the supervision of a licensed/certified applicator. The licensed operator must notify the Director when the license/certified applicator under whose supervision he is working changes.**
- b) A person establishing qualifications to become a licensed commercial operator, licensed commercial not for hire operator or public operator for the first time or needing to re-establish qualifications must apply to the Director for examination on forms available from the Director.
- c) A closed book examination for commercial operator, commercial not for hire operator or public operator will be scheduled at least once annually at various regional locations throughout the state. Examinations will also be scheduled by prior appointment at appropriate state regional offices at other times during the year.
- d) A person becoming licensed as an operator for the first time or re-establishing competency must answer correctly 70% or more of the examination questions.
- e) A person may make only two attempts to successfully demonstrate competence in any one normal work day. The examination can only be taken a maximum of three (3) times within any six month period.

## **Section 250.80 Private Pesticide Applicators: Certification, Licensing, Testing and Training**

- a) Private pesticide applicators shall re-establish certification when required to do so in accordance with Section 9 of the Act.
- b) A person may make application to the Director to become licensed as a private applicator in accordance with Section 11 of the Act.
- c) A person may become certified or recertified as a private applicator by:
  - 1) attending a training session conducted by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service which has been approved by or is in cooperation with the Department and by successful completion of a written, closed book, competency examination; or
  - 2) in lieu of attendance at a training session, successfully complete a written closed book examination pursuant to subsection (e).
- d) Training sessions for private applicators will be conducted as needed on a local basis, usually but not strictly limited to the geographic area of one county. Each training session will be a minimum of three (3) hours duration and must address all general competency standards and current pesticide use information.
- e) **The closed book examination will consist of questions pertinent to general competency standards (see Section 250.110) for which a correct answer is to be selected for each question from multiple choice answers.**
- f) Private applicator certification will be granted or denied by the Director after grading of the examination. If a minimum of 70% of the answers are not correct or the information requested on the examination application is not provided, certification will be withheld.
- g) Examination/application form and training materials for private applicator certification will be available at the local level at the Director's direction and at the Director's office.

## **Section 250.110 General Competency Standards to be Covered on the Tests**

The general competency standards will deal with the following:

- a) Label and Labeling Comprehension:
  - 1) The general format and terminology of pesticide labels and labeling;
  - 2) The understanding of instructions, warnings, terms, symbols, and other information commonly appearing on pesticide labels;
  - 3) Classification of the product, general or restricted; and
  - 4) Necessity for use consistent with label.
- b) Safety – Factors including:
  - 1) Pesticide toxicity and hazard to man and common exposure routes;
  - 2) Common types and causes of pesticide accidents;
  - 3) Precautions necessary to guard against injury to applicators and other individuals in or near treated areas;
  - 4) Need for and use of protective clothing and equipment;
  - 5) Symptoms of pesticide poisoning;
  - 6) First aid and other procedures to be followed in case of a pesticide accident; and
  - 7) Proper identification, storage, transport, handling, mixing procedures and disposal methods for pesticides and used pesticide containers, including precautions to be taken to prevent children from having access to pesticide and pesticide containers.
- c) Environment – The potential environmental consequences of the use and misuse of pesticides as may be influenced by such factors as:

- 1) Weather and other climatic conditions;
  - 2) Types of terrain, soil or other substrate;
  - 3) Presence of fish, wildlife and other nontarget organisms;
  - 4) Drainage patterns;
  - 5) Potential groundwater contamination; and
  - 6) Endangered Species.
- d) Pests – Factors such as:
- 1) Common features of pest organisms and characteristics of damage needed for pest recognition;
  - 2) Recognition of relevant pests; and
  - 3) Pest development and biology as it may be relevant to problem identification and control.
- e) Pesticides – Factors such as:
- 1) Types of pesticides;
  - 2) Types of formulations;
  - 3) Compatibility, synergism, persistence and animal and plant toxicity of the formulation;
  - 4) Hazards and residues associated with use;
  - 5) Factors which influence effectiveness or lead to such problems as resistance to pesticides; and
  - 6) Dilution procedures.
- f) Application techniques – Factors including:

- 1) Methods of procedure used to apply various formulations of pesticides, solutions, and gases, together with a knowledge of which technique of application to use in a given situation;
  - 2) Relationship of discharge and placement of pesticides to proper use, unnecessary use, and misuse; and
  - 3) Prevention of drift and pesticide loss into the environment.
- g) Laws and Regulations – applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

### **Section 250.120 Technical Category Areas of Pesticide Use**

- a) Category 1 is Agricultural Pest Control containing six subcategories as follows:
- 1) **Field Crop Control**  
This category of pesticide applicators includes those applying pesticides in production of agricultural field crops including but not limited to field corn, soybeans, feed grains and forage as well as on grasslands and noncrop agricultural lands.
  - 2) **Vegetable Crop Pest Control**  
This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in production of vegetable crops, including but not limited to tomatoes, sweetcorn, asparagus, peas, or beans as well as on grasslands and noncrop agricultural lands associated with the land on which vegetable crops are grown.
  - 3) **Fruit Crop Pest Control**  
This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in the production of small fruits or tree fruits and nuts as well as on grasslands and noncrop agricultural lands associated with the land on which fruit or nut crops are grown.
  - 4) **Grain Facility Pest Control**  
This category includes applicators using pesticides for the prevention and control of pests in, on or around grain elevators or similar grain holding facilities which are not included under or

classified as a part of the classification of Food Manufacturing, Food Processing, and Food Storage Facility. Pest control in, on, around food or feed facilities is one of the subcategories under Category 7.

5) Animal-Livestock Pest Control

This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides on animals, including but not limited to the following: beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, poultry, and livestock and to places on or in which animals are confined or housed. Doctors of veterinary medicine engaged in the business of applying pesticides for hire, publicly holding themselves out as pesticide applicators or engaged in large scale use of pesticides are included in this category.

6) Grain Fumigation Pest Control

This category includes private applicators (farmers) who use pesticides to treat stored grain upon their own property.

b) Category 2 is Forest Pest Control.

This category includes applicators using pesticides in forests, forest nurseries and forest seed producing areas.

c) Category 3 is Ornamental and Turf Pest Control containing the subcategories as follows:

1) Ornamental Pest Control.

This category includes pesticide applicators applying pesticides in the maintenance and production of trees, ornamental trees, shrubs and flowers.

2) Turf Pest Control.

This category includes pesticide applicators applying pesticides in the maintenance and production of sod and/or turf.

3) Plant Management Pest Control.

This category includes pesticide applicators applying pesticides in the maintenance of portable plants used for interior landscaping and interior design.

d) Category 4 is Seed Treatment Pest Control.



This category includes applicators using pesticides on seeds.

- e) Category 5 is Aquatic Pest Control.  
This category includes applicators using pesticides purposefully applied to standing or running water, excluding applicators engaged in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance.
- f) Category 6 is Right-of-Way Pest Control.  
This category includes applicators using pesticides in the maintenance of public roads, electric powerlines, pipelines, railway right-of-way or other similar areas.
- g) Category 7 is Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health Related Pest Control.  
This category is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Structural Pest Control Act [225 ILCS 235] and rules for that Act (77 Ill. Adm. Code 830).
- h) Category 8 is Public Health Pest Control.  
This category is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Public Health, except as hereafter provided. Mosquito Pest Control is a category of pesticide applicators using pesticides for the prevention and control of mosquitoes. Pesticide applications may be made on or around, although not limited to structures such as schools and hospitals, industrial and business establishments and adjacent areas, including ditches, canals, low wet areas, and stagnant pools, to prevent or control the spread of mosquito borne diseases and for control of nuisance level populations of pest mosquitoes. In accordance with Section 3(2) of the Act and the Structural Pest Control Act, the examination and training for this category is developed by the Department of Public Health. The examination, certification and licensing of applicants is administered by the Department of Agriculture. No other public health and structural pest control activities in fact or by implication are permitted under this license.
- i) Category 9 is Regulatory Pest Control.  
This category includes state, federal or other governmental employees who use or supervise the use of pesticides in the control of pesticide enforcement or regulatory activities.

- j) Category 10 is Demonstration and Research Pest Control.  
This category includes:
  - 1) Individuals who demonstrate to the public the proper use and techniques of application of restricted use or general use pesticides or supervise such demonstration. Included in this group are such persons as extension specialists and county agents, commercial representatives demonstrating pesticide products, and those individuals demonstrating methods used in public programs.
  - 2) persons conducting field research with pesticides and, in doing so, use or supervise the use of restricted or general use pesticides.
- k) Category 11 is Soil Fumigation Pest Control.  
This category includes applicators using pesticides for soil fumigation.
- l) Category 12 is Sewer Root Control.  
This category includes applicators using pesticides for the control of roots within sewer systems.