



Information

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY ■ COLLEGE PARK, MD 20742 ■ (301) 405-3913

Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification in Maryland

Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 6

Amy E. Brown, Ph.D.

Coordinator, Pesticide Education and Assessment Programs

Revised October 2000

Private Applicators

Initial Certification

Private Applicators must pass a written examination on core material plus one specialty (Field and Forage Crops, Fruit, Tobacco, Vegetables, Nursery and Landscape Ornamentals, Turf, Greenhouse Ornamentals, and Wood Preservation). To help the applicator prepare for the exam, Extension Agents (and Regional Specialists) offer certification training sessions according to need in their county or region. The purpose of the training session is two-fold: 1.) to review important concepts, and 2.) to familiarize the applicator with the format of the certification exam. A Trainer's Guide has been prepared for Agents to follow in training sessions to ensure consistency of programs throughout the state. However, Agents may add to this base level of training at their own discretion. Subject matter of the training session is based on the

Core Manual and Specialty Manuals.

Attending the training session **cannot substitute** for reading the Core Manual and appropriate sections of the Specialty Manual!

It is the Agent's responsibility to notify the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) of scheduled training dates, and to reserve a room for the certification exam to be given by a MDA Inspector on a date acceptable to both. Training sessions should be scheduled approximately one week in advance of the certification exam to allow applicators sufficient time to review on their own between the session and the exam. Attendance at these training sessions is **optional** for the applicator, and an applicator may choose to attend in any county or on any date he/she chooses. A private applicator may retake the exam as many times as necessary. Upon passing the exam with a grade of 70% or above, the applicator will be assessed a \$7 fee by MDA.

Local Governments ! U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State law and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

Recertification

Private applicators must be recertified every third year in order to continue to be able to purchase and apply Restricted Use Pesticides. They may accomplish this by 1.) retaking the initial certification exam, or 2.) attending one MDA-approved recertification training session within the last year of the certification period. The object of recertification sessions is to provide applicators with new information on pest control, health and environmental safety, technology, and changes in regulations. Therefore, attendance at training sessions for initial certification will **not** satisfy the requirements for recertification.

The Maryland Cooperative Extension Service (MCES) has reached an agreement with the MDA on guidelines for recertification training sessions. **If these guidelines are adhered to, such sessions will be considered acceptable to MDA, and Agents may bypass the usual requirement of submitting a program to MDA at least two weeks prior to the session to request approval.** The guidelines are as follows:

1. A minimum of 2 hours of training in some combination of the following subjects:

- C new laws, regulations, and policies concerning pesticides (NOTE: This subject **must** be covered. Agents will be kept informed of topics that must be covered in this section through MDA updates and through

in-service training. Attendance at such in-service training will qualify the Agent for recertification in Category 10.)

- C pesticide safety -- human health (acute and chronic hazards, toxicology, use of protective clothing, etc.)
- C pesticide safety -- environmental concerns (wildlife hazards, drift, contamination of surface and/or groundwater, effects on nontarget organisms, endangered species protection, etc.)
- C pest biology (identification, life cycles, damage recognition, development of resistance, etc.)
- C control strategies (pesticides, biocontrol, use of resistant varieties, etc.)
- C application technology (techniques, calibration, equipment care, etc.)
- C integrated pest management (techniques, monitoring, thresholds, etc.)
- C storage and disposal of pesticides

2. Some form of accountability must be built into these training sessions. An applicator **must** attend at least 2 hours of the session to become recertified.

Commercial Applicators

3. After the recertification training session, the Agent is responsible for providing MDA with:

- Ⓒ a copy of the program, and
- Ⓒ an attendance form, signed by the Agent, and listing the date and location of the recertification session. The form should include the printed name, address, and Social Security number of each attendee.

A file on each certified private applicator, designating which training sessions were attended, will be maintained by MDA. The applicator will be notified by MDA of the impending certification expiration date. He/she will be informed of whether the training requirement has been met as well as how and when to mail in the recertification fee. Each county MCES office will also receive notification of the names and addresses of applicators in that county needing to be recertified within the year.

In addition to MCES-sponsored recertification training sessions, any business or private concern may offer such training, subject to approval by MDA. The requirements for the session will be the same as those listed above. However, number 1. a. (laws and regulations) must be covered by a MCES Agent or Specialist, or by a MDA representative. This person must remain throughout the session to determine that the guidelines are followed, and that at least two hours of appropriate material are actually presented.

Initial Certification

The Commercial Applicator must pass a core examination plus an examination in each of the categories appropriate to the specific type of pest control he/she performs. There are no regularly offered MCES-sponsored training sessions for initial certification of Commercial Applicators.

A fee of \$65 covers certification in the core plus one category; an additional \$25 fee is assessed for each additional category. The applicator will be billed for the appropriate amount upon passing the exam. An applicator may retake the exam as many times as necessary, but a \$10.00 fee is assessed at the time of retesting.

Recertification

The Commercial Applicator must recertify each year by 1.) attending an MDA-approved recertification session, or 2.) retaking the certification exam. **Note that training programs for commercial applicators must be submitted to MDA for prior approval before they may be advertised as recertification sessions.** This rule applies even to programs that clearly meet the guidelines, as follows:

1. The minimum number of hours of recertification training required is dependent upon the category as follows:
 - Ⓒ Categories 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 -- 3 hours minimum.

- C Other categories -- as determined on a case-by-case basis by MDA.
2. Topics are to be drawn from some combination of the following:
- C new laws, regulations, and policies concerning pesticides (NOTE: This subject **must** be covered.)
 - C pesticide safety -- human health (acute and chronic hazards, toxicology, use of protective clothing, etc.)
 - C pesticide safety -- environmental concerns (wildlife hazards, drift, contamination of surface and/or groundwater, effects on nontarget organisms, endangered species protection, etc.)
 - C pest biology (identification, life cycles, damage recognition, development of resistance, etc.)
 - C control strategies (pesticides, biocontrol, use of resistant varieties, etc.)
 - C application technology (techniques, calibration, equipment care, etc.)
 - C integrated pest management (techniques, monitoring, thresholds, etc.)
 - C storage and disposal of pesticides
3. Some form of accountability must be built into these training sessions. An applicator **must** attend the minimum number of hours required in his/her category in order to become recertified.