

PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PSEP)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

psep.utk.edu

1. What is the Pesticide Safety Education Program, PSEP?

This is a pesticide safety educational program which provides information for anyone who uses pesticides. The program covers pesticide certification, recertification and licensing of pesticide applicators and pest control operators. It also covers the Worker Protection Standards, WPS, issued by EPA, which gives protection to workers and pesticide handlers in farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses.

2. What is the difference between a Private Applicator and a Commercial Applicator?

A **private applicator** is a farmer, greenhouse operator or someone working in a nursery production setting. Becoming certified as a private applicator allows one to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides.

A **commercial applicator** is one who works under the supervision of a licensed pest control operator who charges a fee for pesticide control services. These individuals may apply general use and/or restricted use pesticides.

3. What is the minimum age for pesticide applicators?

Previously, there was no national minimum age. With the revised rule, there is a minimum age of 18 for all pesticide applicators seeking certification and for persons using RUPs under the direct supervision of certified applicators. There is an exception for a minimum age of 16 for noncertified applicators using RUPs on a farm under the supervision of a private applicator who is a member of their immediate family.

4. How does one order pesticide certification and licensing study materials for the certification and licensing exams?

Study materials may be ordered:

A. Through E-Commerce at:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STO REID=5&CATID=3

B. **OR** By phone using a Discover, MasterCard or VISA **OR**

C. Purchased or ordered at UT, Dept. of Entomology & Plant Pathology, 2505 EJ Chapman Dr. PBB 370, Knoxville, TN 37996-4560.

Other information, publications and forms may be found on the PSEP web site at: psep.utk.edu

The Dept. of Entomology & Plant Pathology, PSEP phone number is 865-974-1286.

The fax number is 865-974-8868.

5. When does one need to be certified and/or licensed and/or chartered?

In order to use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides, one has to be certified as a Private or Commercial Applicator or working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Certification does not allow one to apply a pesticide for a fee. In order to buy a restricted-use pesticide in Tennessee, the individual purchasing the pesticide must be certified as a Private or Commercial Applicator. A dealer must be certified as a Commercial Applicator in Category 12.

There are two types of certified applicators, Private and Commercial. Private Applicators are farmers, greenhouse and nursery operators. All other users of restricted-use pesticides are Commercial Applicators.

Private Applicators become certified by attending an educational seminar at a county Extension office or online through Extension's ExtOL online learning system and may be found here: <https://extol.tennessee.edu/people/>

Commercial Applicators become certified by passing a certification exam in their area of work. The Commercial Applicator exams consist of questions from the CORE or general standards manual and the respective category. These exams are offered several times a week at various county Extension offices and Tenn. Dept. of Agriculture offices across the state. You must prepay a fee of \$15 to TDA in order to take the exam. TDA will then assign you a date to take that exam. You should indicate on the prepay form if you intend on taking one of UT's training seminars in Knoxville.

Certification educational seminars are generally offered by UT the first Wednesday of each month in Knoxville, ETSU, UT Chattanooga, UT Extension District office in Nashville, Murfreesboro and the UT West TN Center in Jackson.

These seminars include training in CORE (General Standards), Ornamental & Turf, C03, and Household and Structural, C07. You may register for these seminars by phone at 865-974-1286, by E-Commerce at:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=5&CATID=3 or by registering at the Dept. of Entomology & Plant Pathology in 2505 EJ Chapman Dr. PBB 370 Knoxville, TN 37996-4560. There is a fee for the training, which is as follows: the CORE is \$50 and each category is an additional \$20.

6. When does one need to be licensed?

A Licensed Pest Control Operator is required to supervise the main office and each branch office for chartered companies, who apply pesticides for a fee, and where pesticides are applied in buildings used for food preparation and service, temporary or permanent lodging of others, educational purposes (schools, etc.) or commercial food processing. These rules apply whether one is applying general-use or restricted-use pesticides. These rules do not apply in buildings used primarily for religious instruction or providing education to not more than ten persons. They do not apply to the application of pesticides by an individual in the individual's dwelling (personal), or to the application of pesticides by the owner of a multi-unit dwelling in which the owner resides and which contains not more than three additional units.

7. What is a charter and when is it needed?

A Charter is an instrument issued by TDA allowing one to become engaged in Commercial pest control operations. It is issued by the TN Dept. of Agriculture, authorizing a person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of commercial pest control operations. A charter is required for each office and branch office. It is issued in the categories of service by the company. Therefore, each person applying for or holding a charter must have for each office or branch office, a Licensed Pest Control Operator for each category of service. In order to obtain a charter, one must also possess liability insurance of \$250,000 / \$500,000 and bonding of \$50,000 for first three years for WDO and GRC and \$10,000 bonding for the fourth and subsequent years. The licensing category Wood Destroying Organisms, WDO, requires an additional Errors and Omissions insurance of \$100,000 / \$300,000.

8. Which commercial certification category do I need and what study materials do I need to order?

All category exams include core concepts and information. Information from Publication PB 1109 would be covered in all category exams. Order PB 1109, *National Pesticide Applicator Certification "Core" Manual*.

Category 1, Agricultural Pest Control – If you apply restricted-use pesticides in the control of plants, whether woody or herbaceous, to planted and/or cultivated crops or to land otherwise used in agricultural production, you need to be commercially certified in this category. Order EPP Info #319, *Agricultural*.

Category 2, Forest Pest Control – If you use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides for the control pests in the maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and turf, you need to be commercially certified in this category. Order EPP Info #609, *Forest Pest Control*.

Category 3, Ornamental & Turf – For an individual to become a Commercial Applicator in order to use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides for pest in the maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and turf, you need to be commercially certified in this category. Order PB #1652, *Ornamental and Turf Pest Control*.

Category 4, Seed Treatment – This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted-use pesticides on seeds. Order EPP Info #611, *Seed Treatment*.

Category 6, Right-of-Way - If you apply restricted-use pesticides for the control of pest on public roads, electric power lines, pipelines, railway rights-of-way, you need to be commercially certified in this category. Order EPP 612, *Aquatic Pest Control*.

Category 7, Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related - To apply restricted-use pesticides for the control of pest in, on, around food handling establishments, human dwellings, institutions, such as schools and hospitals, industrial establishments (including warehouses and grain elevators), any other structures and adjacent area (public or private), for the protection of stored, processed or manufactured products, and for mosquito control except for public land and public waters, you need to be commercially certified in this category. Order PB 1732, *Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health Related Pest Control*.

Category 8. Public Health - To apply restricted-use pesticides for the control of pest that are of public medical and public health importance, including mosquitoes on public land and public waters, you need to be certified in this category. Order PB 1733, *Public Health Control*.

Category 10, Demonstration, Research and Regulatory Pest Control – This category includes State, Federal, or other governmental employees who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides in the control of regulated pests. This category also includes: (1) individuals who demonstrate to the public the proper use and techniques of application of restricted-use pesticides or supervise such demonstrations and (2) persons conducting field research with pesticides and in doing so, use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides.

Included in the first group are persons as Extension Specialists and Extension Agents, commercial representatives demonstrating pesticide products and those individuals demonstrating methods used in public programs.

The second group includes: State, Federal, commercial and other persons conducting field research on or utilizing restricted-use pesticides.

Order EPP 616, *Demonstration, Research and Regulatory Pest Control*.

Category 11, Wood Preservatives – This category includes Commercial Applicators applying restricted- use wood preservatives. Order EPP Info #617, *Wood Preservatives*.

Category 12, Pesticide Dealers – This category includes people engaged in wholesale or retail sales of restricted-use pesticides. Each dealer location selling restricted-use pesticides must have a certified dealer at that location. Order EPP Info 618, *Pesticide Dealer*.

Category 13, Anti-Fouling Marine Paint – This category includes commercial applicators using or supervising the use of restricted-use antifouling marine paints. Order EPP 91, *Anti-Fouling Marine*

Paint.

Category 14, Microbial – Commercial applicators using or supervising the use of antimicrobial agents to control microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, algae and viruses) in cooling towers and swimming pools. Order PB 1718, *Microbial*.

Category 15, Worker Protection Standards, Trainer – This category includes Private and Commercial Applicators who train workers and handlers of pesticides. The trainer must be able to teach all the subjects required in the standards of Competency. Trainers must be able to train pesticide handlers, workers and early-entry workers. Order the *How to Comply* manual from Gemplers.

Category 16, Sewer Line Treatment – This category includes Commercial Applicators who use restricted-use pesticides for sewer line root control, such as metam-sodium. Order PB 1680, *Sewer Line Treatment*.

LHA, Limited Herbicide Applicator - This category was created for individuals who apply glyphosate as the sole active ingredient in conjunction with landscape maintenance work.

9. What licensing category do I need and what licensing category do I need to order?

Aerial – Pilots applying pesticides by air. Order the **Aerial** manual.

AGE, Agricultural - Ground Equipment – Control of agricultural pests by means other than fumigation. Order AGE, *Agricultural-Ground Equipment*.

AQW, Aquatic Weed Control – Control aquatic plants by the application of pesticides. Order AQW, *Aquatic Weed Control* packet.

BDC, Bird Control – Control of pest birds, by the use of pesticides. Order BDC, *Bird Control* packet.

FUS/FUM, Fumigation Soil (Agri.) / (Structural) –

Fumigation Soil, FUS – Control of agricultural pests found in the soil by application of a material that is a gas.

Fumigation Structural, FUM – Control of pests by application of a material that is a gas to buildings. Order FUS/FUM, *Fumigation Soil (AGRI.) / (Structural)*.

GRC, General Pest and Rodent Control -- To perform custom application of pesticides, or apply pesticides for a fee, to vertebrate (rats, mice etc.) and invertebrate (insects) pests in and around structures. Order PB 1673, *General Pest & Rodent Control*.

HLT, Horticulture, Lawn and Turf -- To perform custom application of pesticides for insects and diseases of shrubs, trees, lawn and turf in residential, institutional, and non-agricultural locations. Order PB 1666, *Horticulture-Lawn & Turf*.

HRI, Horticulture - Interior – Control of pests and diseases of plants grown indoors.

PHMC, Public Health Mosquito Control – To perform custom application of pesticides for mosquito control on public lands and public waters. Order PB 1685, *Public Health Pest Control*.

WEC, Weed Right-of-Way -- To perform custom application of pesticides for the control of plants, whether woody or herbaceous, to industrial sites and rights-of-way such as, but not limited to, highways, transmission lines, drainage ditches, etc. Order PB 1706, *Weed Right-Of-Way*.

WDO, Wood Destroying Organisms – To perform custom application of pesticides for termites, various wood borers, carpenter bees, carpenter ants and decay without regard to the type or use of structure involved. Order PB 1703, *Wood Destroying Organisms*.

10. How does a Private Applicator get recertified and how often?

Private Applicators must become recertified every 3 years. This may be accomplished by attending a recertification seminar offered by every county Extension office in Tennessee on online via ExtOL.

11. How does a Commercial Applicator become recertified and how often?

Commercial Applicators are recertified by earning a designated number of points over a three year period. The point requirement may be prorated, depending on when you were certified. The next deadline is December 31, 2017. Points may be earned by attending approved recertification meetings in your category. Professional and trade associations offer meetings annually where points may be earned. The Univ. of TN, Dept. of Entomology & Plant Pathology offers an annual meeting in mid-March at UT Knoxville, ETSU, UT Chattanooga, UT Extension District Office in Nashville, Murfreesboro and UT West TN Center in Jackson. This program is taped and shown again in mid-July of the same year in Knoxville. Preregistration is required, especially for outlying Interactive Television sites. The number of points required in each category may be found from a fact sheet, SP 363D, *Tennessee Commercial Recertification Point System*, available from the Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology or from TDA.

You may check the number of points you have by going to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) web site at <https://agriculture.tn.gov/default.asp>. If you have further questions concerning you points you may call TDA at 615-837-5148.

12. When does one need a Licensed Pest Control Operator? And, how does one become a Licensed Pest Control Operator?

Chartered companies that are in the business of commercial pest control, applying a pesticide for a fee, are required to have at least one Licensed Pest Control Operator at the main office and at least one at each branch office. In order to become a Licensed Pest Control Operator, one must be certified in the respective certification category. You must also have one of the following: a B.S. in Agriculture, Entomology, Biology or some other related subject, OR have two years of experience in that licensing category, while being supervised by a Licensed Pest Control Operator OR have a similar license from another state.

Two licensing categories are exempt from these requirements, AGE (Ag Ground) and HLT (Horticulture, Lawn and Turf). Individuals applying for these two categories must appear before the TN Pest Control Board and pass a brief oral examination before being allowed to take either of these licensing exams.

In order to take a licensing exam, one must complete an application and together with a fee of \$150 send to TDA, Certification & Licensing Section, Box 40627, Porter Bldg., Nashville, TN 37204. These must be post marked no later than the 10th of the month preceding the month of the exam. The licensing exams are given quarterly at the Ellington Agriculture Center in Nashville. Applications may be obtained from the PSEP website at psep.utk.edu or the TDA website at: <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/> or call their respective numbers at 865-974-1286 or 615-837-5148.

13. Who do I contact if I suspect pesticide drift?

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Consumer and Industry Services Division
Pesticides Section
At: (615) 837-5148
Or 1-(800) 628-2631

14. Who do I contact if I suspect a Pest Control Company is not applying products correctly?

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Consumer and Industry Services Division
Pesticides Section
At: (615) 837-5148

15. Who would I contact about other pesticide related complaints?

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture
at: (615) 837-5148 or
Visit: <https://tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-consumers-pesticide-complaints>

16. I have several gallons of an older pesticide product I need to dispose of, what can I do?

Contact: Rich Strickland at TDA
Richard.Strickland@tn.gov
615-837-5523

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development,
family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture
and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.