

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR, COMMERCIAL

Certifying Authority

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Legal Authority

Code of Iowa, Chapter 206; Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 45

Job Description

Commercial pesticide applicators evaluate pest problems, real or potential, and select the most appropriate control measures, including integrated pest management and pesticides for the safe and effective control of pests. They ensure that the necessary pesticides, application equipment and other supplies are available for proper application of pesticides. They must understand the crops and/or sites treated with pesticides, as well as know the types of pests encountered and their effect on the crop or site in order to determine the severity of the problem and how to treat it.

Education & Experience Required

No formal education, training or supervised practice is required to become a pesticide applicator. However, an applicant must study the "Iowa Core Manual" and one, or all, of the other Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicator manuals, and pass exams administered by the Department of Agriculture. These manuals are:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Manual</u>	<u>Manual #</u>
1A	Agricultural Weed Control	CS-9
1B	Agricultural Insect Control	CS-10
1C	Agricultural Crop Disease Control	CS-11
1D	Fruit and Vegetable Pest Control	CS-12
1E	Animal Pest Control	CS-13
2	Forest Pest Control	CS-14
3	Ornamental, Turf and Greenhouse Pest Control	CS-15
4	Seed Treatment	CS-16
5	Aquatic Pest Control	CS-17
6	Right of Way Pest Control	CS-18
7A	General and Household Pest Control	CS-19
7B	Termite Pest Control	CS-20
7C	Fumigation	CS-27
7D	Community Insect Control	CS-22
7E	Wood Preservatives	CS-28
7F	Antifouling Paints	CS-29
8	Public Health Pest Control	CS-23
9	Regulatory Pest Control	CS-24
10	Demonstration and Research Pest Control	CS-25
11	Aerial Application	CS-26

All of the manuals may be obtained from:

Publications Distribution
112 Printing and Publications Bldg
Iowa State University
Ames IA 50011

The cost of these manuals can be found below under "Fees."

An out-of-state pesticide applicator can get an Iowa license if there is a reciprocal agreement between Iowa and the other state.

Continuing Education

An individual may choose to renew certification by re-testing every three years or by attending two hours of continuing instruction approved by the Department each calendar year. An individual certified in more than one category must obtain the required training for each category in lieu of re-testing each year.

Examination

An applicant must pass the Iowa Core Manual Exam and category exams specific to the type of pests controlled. The exams are given each weekday at the Department of Agriculture from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Fees

Application: \$25 – 1 year business license
 \$30 – 1 year applicator certificate
 \$75 – 3 year applicator certificate
Renewal: \$25 – 1 year business license
 \$30 – 1 year applicator certificate
 \$75 – 3 year applicator certificate
Exam: None
Other: \$25 per year for Commercial Applicator License
 \$15.00 – Iowa Core Manual
 \$5 – Revised manuals
 \$3 – Manuals not revised

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage

37-3012 – Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers, and Applicators, Vegetation (\$11.67)

Number of Licenses Issued

Total number of certificates active as of December 31,
2003: 11,572
2002: 11,440
2001: 11,058
2000: 11,310
1999: 11,634
1998: 11,763