

## Requirement Summary for Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicator Licenses and Certifications

**COMMERCIAL LICENSE** A person engaged in the business of applying any pesticide to the lands or property of another is required to be licensed as a commercial pesticide applicator. Each location or outlet operating in Iowa as a commercial pesticide applicator is required to be licensed separately. Each licensed location is required to designate a person responsible for the pesticide application activities for that site and indicate this person's name on the license application form.

- ① **Fee** - \$25 annual license fee for the location license. All licenses expire December 31 of each year. Renewal forms are provided to licensees during late October or early November of each year. License renewals submitted after the expiration date are subject to a penalty of 25 percent of the fee due. *(Persons who apply pesticides as a commercial pesticide applicator without a current license and/or certification may also be subject to civil penalties being assessed against them.)*
- ② **Certified Applicators** - Each individual who applies pesticides for a commercial pesticide applicator is required to be *certified*. Certified commercial applicators may obtain a one-year certification for \$30 or a three-year certification for \$75. *Certifications are valid only when associated with a valid licensed company!* Written examinations are required for first-time applicators. Written exams are also required for individuals adding on certification categories and those persons choosing not to maintain continuing instruction credit hours.

The core examination and appropriate category test(s) must be successfully passed before application for certification can be made. Additional categories may be added anytime with no extra charge. Any category will carry the same expiration date as the card on which it is added. Each certified individual must be listed as an applicator under a current Iowa pesticide applicator license for that certification to be valid.

**Renewal of Applicator Certifications** - Each applicator is placed on a three-year "qualification cycle." During those three years, an applicator may maintain a single-year certification by submitting a one-year fee and renewal form. (Certification renewal forms are provided by the Pesticide Bureau.) A 30-day grace period from the date of expiration will be allowed for the renewal of the certification. At the end of the qualification cycle each applicator must indicate a method of renewal by:

1. Declaring that at least two hours of continuing instruction *for each certified application category* has been received for *each* of the previous three years and verification of having received training is on file with the applicator's employer;  
or,
2. Completing written tests at the end of the third year of the "qualification cycle;"  
or,

3. Maintaining a combination of training and testing.

*Note: An applicator who misses two hours of training for any one category for any one year is required to complete written tests for that particular category. There are no provisions for "making up" missed continuing instruction hours to avoid the written test.*

- ③ **Secondary Containment of Pesticides** - Before a commercial applicator license may be issued, the applicant must certify that the firm is in compliance with the secondary containment provisions for pesticides, as specified in *Iowa Administrative Code*, 21- chapter 44(206), or provide documentation that the firm is exempt from those requirements.
- ④ **Evidence of financial responsibility (Certificate of Insurance)** - Each commercial applicator must provide evidence of financial responsibility to provide for damages resulting as result of the applicant's pesticide application operations. Coverage must provide for at least \$50,000 property damage and \$50,000 public liability, each separately. A certificate of insurance is the most popular form of fulfilling the statutory requirements for financial responsibility; however, a properly executed surety bond may also be accepted. The provider of any certificate of insurance must promptly notify the Pesticide Bureau of any cancellation or modifications of the covered individual which may affect compliance with *Iowa Code*, section 206.13 .
- ⑤ **Nonresidents** - Any nonresident of Iowa applying for a pesticide applicator license to operate in this state shall file a notarized power of attorney designating the secretary of state as the duly authorized agent upon whom service of process may be had in the event of any suit against the nonresident person (company). The Pesticide Bureau shall be furnished with a copy of such designation of the secretary of state or of a resident agent, such copy to be *certified* by the secretary of state.

Nonresidents may qualify for reciprocity regarding the written test requirements for certification. To apply for reciprocal certification with the state of Iowa, include a copy of the front and back of the certification card currently held. Those individuals with certification under a reciprocal agreement must meet Iowa's license requirements and pay Iowa's license and certification fees. **Only nonresidents qualify for certification by reciprocity.**

**AERIAL APPLICATORS** Aerial applicators are subject to all licensing and certification requirements of the Commercial Pesticide Applicator license plus additional requirements regarding containment and aerial applicator consultants. Please see the IDALS website for information specific to the licensing of aerial applicators at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/pesticides.asp>

**NONCOMMERCIAL LICENSE** A noncommercial applicator license is required for the firm which during regular operating procedure demonstrates either the use of pesticides or finds it necessary to purchase and/or apply restricted use pesticides *solely upon land or property owned by or under the control of the licensee*. Any other pesticide applications made on any other property would subject the licensee to the provisions of a commercial pesticide applicator.

Licensing requirements for noncommercial Pesticide Applicators is identical to that of Commercial Pesticide Applicators *except* that proof of financial responsibility is waived under this license providing the noncommercial applicator is a full-time employee of a privately held entity and/or shall not publicly claim to be a commercial pesticide applicator or engage in the business of applying pesticides other than as an employee of a company on company property.

**PUBLIC OFFICIAL and STATE AGENCIES** A license is required for any state or county agency, municipal corporation, or any other governmental entity which during regular operating procedures performs or supervises pesticide applications (either nonrestricted or restricted pesticides). These pesticide applications are made solely upon land or property owned by or under control of the licensee. Any other pesticide applications made on any other property would subject the licensee to the provisions of a commercial pesticide applicator.

Requirements for Public Official and State Agency licensees are identical to those of the Commercial Pesticide Applicators except:

\_ Those qualifying for the public applicator license status are exempt from paying the \$25 annual license fee; however, the license must be renewed each year.

\_ Certification fees for qualifying public applicators are \$10 for a one-year certification and \$15 for a three-year certification.

\_ Proof of financial responsibility is waived for this license type.

**GOLF COURSES** Any golf course which applies pesticides to those grounds must meet the same certification and license requirements for Public Applicators, regardless whether the facility is public or private in organization.

**Certified Pesticide Applicator Categories**

1. Agricultural Pest Control
  - 1A Agricultural Weed Control
  - 1B Agricultural Insect Control
  - 1C Agricultural Crop Disease Control
  - 1D Fruit and Vegetable Pest Control
  - 1E Animal Pest Control
2. Forest Pest Control
3. Ornamental and Turf Pest Control
  - 3OT Ornamental and Turf Pest Control
  - 3O Ornamental Pest Control
  - 3T Turf Pest Control
  - 3G Greenhouse
4. Seed Treatment
5. Aquatic Pest Control

6. Right-of-Way Pest Control
7. Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Related Pest Control
  - 7A General and Household Pest Control
  - 7B Termite Pest Control
  - 7C Fumigation
  - 7D Community Pest Control
  - 7E Wood Preservatives
  - 7F Antifouling Paints
8. Public Health Pest Control
9. Regulatory Pest Control
10. Demonstration and Research Pest Control
11. Aerial Applicators
00. Pesticide Handler

**CERTIFIED HANDLERS** A "certified handler" means a person employed by a licensed commercial applicator, noncommercial applicator, public applicator or pesticide dealer who handles pesticides in other than unopened containers for the purposes of preparing, mixing or loading pesticides for application by another person, repackaging bulk pesticides or disposing of pesticide-related wastes from these activities.

1. The secretary shall NOT issue a certified handler's certification until an individual is certified as competent by passing an examination to demonstrate to the secretary his knowledge of how to apply pesticides and pays either a one-year \$30 certification fee or a three-year \$75 certification fee. Certifications must be renewed by the process of retesting. A 30-day grace period from the day of expiration will be allowed for the renewal of the certified handler's certification.

2. A certified handler shall not act in the capacity of a supervisor of other certified handlers or certified applicators

**WRITTEN APPLICATOR TESTS** are offered daily, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wallace Building at East Ninth and Grand in Des Moines, Iowa. If a group of ten or more is involved, please call (515) 281-4339 or (515) 286-5601 and make an appointment. Otherwise, no appointment is necessary. Photo identification is required. Tests are also offered on a limited basis at some cooperative extension service area offices. Please contact either the area office or the Pesticide Bureau for a current testing schedule.

**PESTICIDE BUREAU CONTACTS**

Licensing & Certification .....	515-281-5601
Dealer Licenses .....	515-281-5601
Private Certification .....	515-281-8591
Product Registration .....	515-281-8591
Certification Testing Information .....	515-281-8591
Pesticide General Information.....	515-281-8591

**IDALS GENERAL INFORMATION .....** 515-281-5321

[pesticides@iowaAgriculture.gov](mailto:pesticides@iowaAgriculture.gov)

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/pesticides.asp>