



## COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

Ch. ATCP 29.29 and 29.31 Wis Adm Code and s. 94.715(2)(dm) Wis. Stats

Commercial applicators demonstrate competence in the use and handling of pesticides by passing a written closed book certification exam. Individuals shall be competent in the use and application of pesticides in each certification category relevant to their pesticide use. Certification is valid for five years, and additional category certifications expire simultaneously with the initial category expiration date.

### Who needs to be certified?

Individuals who use or direct the use of:

1. Any pesticide as an independent contractor for hire,
2. A restricted use pesticide, or
3. Any pesticide on school grounds.

### Permit and Pesticide Label Requirement for Certification

Federal and/or state government agencies (e.g., US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) can require pesticide applicator certification and licensing as a condition of their permit. Some non-restricted use pesticide labeling statements require commercial certification and licensing. If the product label or labeling language indicates, "...individual certification and licensing is required..." you MUST obtain certification and individual licensing prior to using that product.

### CERTIFICATION CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

There are 20 commercial pesticide applicator certification categories. A brief description of the types of pesticide use a certified individual may make under each category follow.

#### Field and Vegetable Pest Control (1.1)

Control pests affecting agricultural field and vegetable crops, or to control pests on noncrop agricultural lands e.g. Conservation Reserve land.

#### Fruit Crop Pest Control (1.2)

Control pests affecting the production of agricultural fruit crops, including small fruits, tree fruits and nuts.

#### Livestock and Poultry Pest Control (1.3)

Do either of the following:

1. Control pests on agricultural animals such as livestock, poultry or horses.
2. Control pests other than birds and rodents in places, other than human habitations, where agricultural animals are confined.

#### Forest Pest Control (2.0)

Control pests in forests, forest nurseries, Christmas tree plantations and tree seed producing areas.

#### Turf and Landscape Pest Control (3.0)

Control pests affecting turf or landscape areas. This includes applications to trees in landscaped areas, e.g. to control Emerald Ash Borer. This category does not cover terrestrial mosquito applications, treating water bodies or perimeter barrier applications made on a building or structure to prevent or discourage pests from entering.

*"Use"* a pesticide means to mix or load a pesticide, apply a pesticide, or engage in any of the following activities which is related to the mixing, loading or application of a pesticide:

- (a) Activities which the pesticide label requires of the mixer, loader or applicator.
- (b) Handling an open pesticide container, other than an empty container that has been triple-rinsed or cleaned according to the pesticide label.
- (c) Cleaning or rinsing an open pesticide container, pesticide application equipment, or a mix or nurse tank.
- (d) Disposing of a pesticide or pesticide rinsate.
- (e) Aerating or ventilating spaces treated with a pesticide.

*Definition from ATCP 29.01(41)*

*"Direct the use of a pesticide"* means to select or control the use of a pesticide, where the selecting or controlling individual has supervisory authority over the person using the pesticide.

*Definition from ATCP 29.01(14)*



### **Greenhouse and Nursery Pest Control (3.1)**

Control pests affecting greenhouse or nursery plants.

### **Seed Treatment Pest Control (4.0)**

Control pests on seeds used for planting or propagation, other than planter box treatments.

### **Aquatic and Mosquito Pest Control (5.0)**

Do either of the following:

1. To control pest in standing or running surface water, or below the *high water mark*. (e.g. retention ponds on corporate office properties or lakes)
  2. To control mosquitoes in water, or on land.
- Trainees cannot be registered to make applications in Category 5.0.

In 1914, the Wisconsin Supreme Court defined the **ordinary high water mark** as "the point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation or other easily recognized characteristic." Source WI DNR

### **Antifouling Paint (5.1)**

Use antifouling paint pesticides to preserve and protect boat hulls, buoys, and other materials against damage from marine plant and animals such as barnacles, algae, and tube worms.

### **Rights-of Way and Natural Areas (6.0)**

Maintain lands in rights of way (e.g. under electric power lines) and to restore or maintain the ecological integrity of natural areas. Does not include applications to control mosquitoes.

### **Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health-Related Pest Control; General (7.1)**

Control pests in or around residential, institutional and industrial establishments, schools, grain elevators or like structures, and the areas within 10 feet immediately adjacent to those facilities. Includes spot applications in landscapes greater than 10 feet from a structure to prevent or discourage structural pests such as ants and hornets, from entering that building. However, when this type of application is made, this is considered a "landscape setting" and all landscape posting and landscape registry requirements apply. Does not include applications to control mosquitoes or termites.

### **Fumigation: Spaces and Commodities (7.2)**

Use fumigant pesticides to control pests in industrial, institutional or structural settings, or for health-related purposes. It includes individuals who apply fumigants by means of general, spot, tarpaulin, chamber, vehicle or in-transit fumigation, or who aerate or ventilate fumigated spaces. It does not include the use of soil fumigants.

### **Termite Control (7.3)**

Individuals who use or direct the use of pesticides to prevent or control termites.

### **Wood Preservation (7.4)**

Preserve and protect wood or wood-based materials against damage from insects, fungi, surface molds and mildew, marine crustaceans, shipworms and other pests. Note that use of antifouling paint pesticides to preserve and protect boat hulls and similar objects requires certification in the Antifouling Paint Certification Category (5.1).

### **Sewer Root Control (7.5)**

Use metam sodium or other fumigants to control root growth in sewers.

### **Companion Animal Pest Control (11.0)**

Do either of the following:

1. Control pests on companion animals, such as dogs or cats.
2. Control pests in places, other than human habitations, where companion animals are confined.

### **Pesticide Mixer and Loader (24.0)**

Individuals certified in this category may only mix and load pesticides for application by others.



### **Supplemental Certification Categories** ch. ATCP 29.29 Wis. Adm. Code

Applicators that need to certify in a supplemental category must first certify in a base category specific to the site where they will apply pesticides. For example, to apply a fungicide to corn from a helicopter, you must certify in both Category 1.1 Field and Vegetable and the supplemental Category 9.9 Aerial.

#### **Aerial Applicator (9.9)**

Use aircraft to make pesticide applications.

#### **Chemigation (26.0)**

Use a chemigation system to make agricultural or non-agricultural pesticide applications. Includes use of urban pesticide misting systems.

#### **Soil Fumigation (25.0)**

Use soil fumigants for agricultural or non-agricultural uses.

### **Reciprocal Commercial Applicator Certification & Licensing** ch ATCP 29.25 & 29.26 Wis. Adm. Code

An individual who has certified by passing a closed book commercial applicator exam in another state within the past five years may seek reciprocal certification from Wisconsin if 1) the individual has never had his certification suspended or revoked, and 2) the other state's certification standards are equivalent to Wisconsin's. A reciprocal certification and license expires on Dec. 31 of the year in which it is issued.

### **Private Pesticide Applicator Certification.** ch. ATCP 29.27 Wis. Adm. Code

Individuals who use restricted-use pesticides on property that they or their employer own, control, or rent may certify as a private applicator. Individuals must certify as a commercial pesticide applicator if they 1) are paid to apply pesticides to more than 500 acres/year of land they do not control, 2) make applications for more than three agricultural producers, or 3) make applications for non-agricultural purposes.

### **Trainee Registration.** ch ATCP 29.32 Wis. Adm. Code

A licensed pesticide application business may register an employee as a trainee for a 30 day time period. DATCP expects the trainee to take the certification exam during or immediately after the 30 day trainee timeframe. An employer may not register a trainee more than once in the same category. Trainee registration cannot be issued to an individual who has failed a certification exam. A trainee cannot:

1. Use any pesticide except under the direct on-site supervision of a certified and licensed pesticide applicator.
2. Direct the use of pesticides.
3. Engage in any category of pesticide use that is not identified in the trainee registration.
4. Use restricted-use pesticides.
5. Make aquatic & mosquito pesticide applications.
6. Use soil fumigants, or apply pesticides by aircraft or chemigation.