

# Pesticide Applicator Licenses

Restricted use pesticide applicator licenses are available to certified individuals to allow for the purchase and use of restricted use pesticides on agricultural and related sites, such as farms, plant nurseries, forests, ornamentals and turfs not associated with structures (such as golf courses and parks), and highway right-of-ways, etc. License categories are also available to cover the following applications: soil and greenhouse fumigation, raw agricultural commodity fumigation, aquatic pest control, wood treatment, seed treatment, sewer root control, use of antifouling boat paints, treatment of swimming pools with chlorine gas, demonstration and research, and regulatory use. Also, aerial application of any pesticide in Florida to any of the above sites requires a pesticide applicator license.

License types available are Private, Commercial, and Public. For a description of each license type, categories available, and information on how to obtain a license, go to our website <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Pesticide-Licensing/Pesticide-Applicator-Licenses/Pesticide-Applicator-Certification-and-Licensing> or see the frequently asked questions below.

These licenses are not valid for commercial pest control to treat residential or business structures or associated lawns. Please check our website for information on [commercial residential or business pest control licenses](#) or [public health/mosquito control](#).

## Florida Laws

- [Chapter 487, F.S. - Pesticide Regulation and Safety](#)
- [Chapter 5E-2, F.A.C. - Pesticides](#)
- [Chapter 5E-9, F.A.C. - Licensed Pesticide Applicators and Dealers](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who needs a restricted use pesticide applicator license?

Anyone using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides on agricultural or related sites in Florida needs a restricted use pesticide license. Also, a license is required of anyone who aerially applies any pesticide in Florida to agricultural or related sites. Agricultural and related sites include but are not limited to the following areas: farms, plant nurseries, livestock, forests, ornamentals and turf not associated with structures (such as golf courses, parks, and cemeteries), right-of-way areas (along highways, railroads, pipelines, etc.), soil and greenhouse fumigation, raw agricultural commodity fumigation, aquatic weed control, wood treatment, seed treatment, sewer root control, use of antifouling boat paints, treatment of swimming pools with chlorine gas, demonstration and research using agricultural or related restricted use pesticides, and regulatory use of agricultural or related restricted use pesticides.

### 2. How does one obtain a restricted use pesticide applicator license?

An individual must pass the certification exams to be eligible for a license. Training and exams are provided at local County Cooperative Extension Service Offices statewide, and most manuals are available at nominal cost from the University of Florida/IFAS Publications Office (352-392-1764) or <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/>). For more information on how to obtain a license, go to [Applicator Certification & Licensing](#).

### 3. What license type and categories do I need?

The license type and categories needed depend on how and where pesticides will be used . In general, a private license is valid for using restricted use pesticides to produce agricultural commodities on the pesticide applicator's own land or place of agricultural employment, such as application to a citrus grove or in a plant nursery. A public license is valid for restricted use pesticides used at a place of employment for a government entity, such as treating highway right-of-ways as an employee of the Department of Transportation. A commercial license is required for all other applications of restricted use pesticides not covered by the private or public license. This includes all contract (for hire) applications made to property not owned or rented by the applicator or his/her employer, and for all non-government applications not for the purpose of agricultural production. For examples, see question #6.

**4. What is the definition of a "private applicator"?**

A "private applicator" is an individual who has reached the age of majority (generally 18 years old) and is licensed by the Department to use or supervise the use of any restricted use pesticide **for purposes of producing any agricultural commodity** on property owned or rented by the licensed person or that person's employer. A private license may also be used to apply restricted use pesticides without compensation, other than the trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities, on the property of another individual for the purpose of agricultural production. This license is for farm, ranch, grove, nursery, sod farm applications, etc. Application of restricted use pesticides for **production** of ornamentals and turf at a nursery or sod farm or in a greenhouse may also be performed with a private license. However, application of restricted use pesticides solely to maintain turf and ornamentals at places such as golf courses requires a commercial license.

**5. What is the definition of a "public applicator"?**

A "public applicator" is an individual who has reached the age of majority (generally 18 years of age) and is licensed by the Department to use or supervise the use of any restricted use pesticide as an employee of a state agency, municipal corporation, or other government agency.

**6. What is the definition of a "commercial applicator"?**

A "commercial applicator" is an individual who has reached the age of majority (generally 18 years of age) and is licensed by the Department to use or supervise the use of any restricted use pesticide for any purpose on any property other than as provided by the definitions of "private applicator" and "public applicator." A commercial license is required for all contract (for hire) applications made to property not owned or rented by the applicator or his/her employer, and for all applications not for the purpose of agricultural production. Examples: maintenance of turf and ornamentals on golf courses, parks, and cemeteries (no agricultural production involved); highway right-of-way applications; aquatic applications to keep recreational waters free of aquatic weeds; wood treatment not associated with agricultural production; etc.

**7. Can one license type substitute for another?**

A commercial license with the appropriate agricultural categories may substitute for a private license if desired. A commercial license with the appropriate work-related categories may substitute for a public license if acceptable to the government agency with which the applicator is employed, but liability issues should be considered before making any license substitutions.

**8. Which exams are required to obtain a private license?**

Two exams are required to obtain a private applicator license: the general standards (core) exam and the private applicator agricultural pest control exam.

#### **9. Which exams are required to obtain a public license?**

Public applicators must pass the general standards (core) exam plus all category exams needed to cover the work in which restricted use pesticides will be used in employment with a government agency. At least one primary category exam is required, and there is no limit to the number of category exams that may be taken. The primary category exams available to public applicators are: aerial application, agricultural animal pest control, agricultural row crop pest control, agricultural tree crop pest control, aquatic pest control, chlorine gas infusion, forestry pest control, natural areas weed management, organotin antifouling paint pest control, ornamental and turf pest control, raw agricultural commodity fumigation, regulatory inspection and sampling, regulatory pest control, right-of-way pest control, seed treatment, sewer root control, soil and greenhouse fumigation, and wood treatment. Public applicators must also become licensed in demonstration and research (secondary category), in addition to one or more primary categories, if their work for a government agency involves demonstration or research using restricted use pesticides.

#### **10. Which exams are required to obtain a commercial license?**

Commercial applicators must pass the general standards (core) exam plus all category exams needed to cover the type of work in which restricted use pesticides will be used. At least one primary category exam is required, and there is no limit to the number of category exams that may be taken. The primary category exams available to commercial applicators are: aerial application, agricultural animal pest control, agricultural row crop pest control, agricultural tree crop pest control, aquatic pest control, chlorine gas infusion, forestry pest control, natural areas weed management, organotin antifouling paint pest control, ornamental and turf pest control, raw agricultural commodity fumigation, right-of-way pest control, seed treatment, sewer root control, soil and greenhouse fumigation, and wood treatment. Commercial applicators must also become licensed in demonstration and research (secondary category), in addition to one or more primary categories, if their work involves demonstration or research using restricted use pesticides.

#### **11. Where are the exams given and what is the procedure?**

Most of the certification exams are administered by the Cooperative Extension Service Offices in local counties across the state. For a table of exams given in each county, go to [Pesticide Applicator Certification & Licensing](#). To find out the exam schedule for a specific County Cooperative Extension Service Office, contact that particular office. A list of the County Cooperative Extension Service offices is available at <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/public/countyList.faces> or you may contact the Pesticide Certification Section at (850) 617-7870 for more information.

The following certification exams are not routinely offered by the Cooperative Extension Service Offices: regulatory pest control, regulatory inspection and sampling, chlorine gas infusion, and sewer root control. The exams for these categories are administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on an as-needed basis. To schedule these exams, call the Pesticide Certification Section at (850) 617-7870.

#### **12. What study materials or classes are available for preparing for the exams?**

To prepare for the certification exams, training manuals for most categories are available from the University of Florida/IFAS Publications Office (1-800-226-1764 or <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/>). Training classes in general standards (core) and most categories are also provided by the Cooperative Extension Service at local county offices throughout the state. Each County Cooperative Extension Service Office sets its own training schedule. To find out the training schedule for a specific County Office, you may contact that office directly. A list of County Extension Offices is provided at [solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html). Also, a list of training classes approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) is available using the [CEU Class Search](#). Most of the classes are available to individuals who need training for initial certification as well as recertification. For more information, check with the contact person listed for each class.

Training manuals and training classes for the following categories are provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: regulatory pest control, regulatory inspection and sampling, chlorine gas infusion, sewer root control. The Training Manual for the Chlorine Gas Infusion Category is available online at: Chlorine Gas Manual 06-95 [pdf]. To obtain training manuals or to schedule training classes for these categories, contact the Pesticide Certification Section at (850) 617-7870. Training classes for these categories are included in the CEU Class Search.

### **13. What is the procedure for obtaining exam results?**

After the certification exams are taken, a letter with exam scores is sent by the FDACS Pesticide Certification Section to each individual who tested. Online exam scores are available approximately two weeks after test date by secure login using the Exam Score Search. When all the required exams for the license type and categories needed have been passed, a license application is mailed to the individual.

### **14. What is the procedure for applying for a license after the exams have been passed?**

When the required certification exams have been passed, exam results and a license application are mailed to the individual by the Pesticide Certification Section. The license application should be completed and returned to the address on the form with the proper license fee. This can be paid online at <https://aesecomm.fdacs.gov/>. The license application must be filled out completely. If it is incomplete, the application will be returned for completion, which will delay the issuance of the license.

### **15. What is the duration and cost of the license?**

All three license types are valid for four years. The license fees for the four-year licenses are: Private \$100; Commercial \$250; Public \$100.

### **16. How does one renew the license when it expires?**

Licensees must be recertified to renew their licenses. There are two options for recertification: either take the certification exams again at renewal time, or earn continuing education units (CEUs) during the four-year license period and accumulate the required number of CEUs for recertification. For a table of the number of CEUs required for each license category, go to CEU Program).

Pesticide applicators are responsible for keeping CEU Record of Attendance forms obtained at CEU training sessions for submission to the FDACS Pesticide Certification Section with renewal paperwork at license renewal time. Some CEU training providers enter CEU information for their class attendees into the FDACS online Earned CEUs database for easy tracking and verification,

but this is an optional procedure and not all CEUs earned are contained in this database. Pesticide applicators can conduct an [Earned CEU Search](#) by license number to find out how many of their CEUs have been entered into this system. The FDACS Pesticide Certification Section will accept this online record of earned CEUs by RUP (restricted use pesticide) license holders in lieu of official CEU Record of Attendance forms for those CEUs included.

#### 17. Are licensees notified when the license is about to expire?

Yes, a renewal notice is mailed to all licensees approximately 60 days before the license expires. If a licensee does not receive the renewal notice, a copy may be requested by calling the Pesticide Certification Section at (850) 617-7870. It is important that licensees inform the Department of any address change. To renew a license, the licensee must complete the renewal notice and send it back to the Pesticide Certification Section with renewal fee and copies of CEU attendance records or indication that exams will be taken again to renew. If taking exams again, the County Cooperative Extension Service Office will forward exam answer sheets to the Pesticide Certification Section for grading and license renewal.

#### 18. How does one inform the office of a change of address?

A signed, written notice must be submitted to the Pesticide Certification Section to change any address on file. The notice must include the applicator's complete name, license number, and new address, and the notice must be signed and dated. It is the licensed applicator's responsibility to notify the Department of any address changes so important information will not be misdelivered or returned undeliverable. The fax number for the Pesticide Certification Section is (850) 617-7895. A [change of information form](#) may be used but is not required.

#### 19. How does one determine when and where the CEU classes are held?

A searchable database of Continuing Education Unit (CEU) classes is available using the [CEU Class Search](#). The database can be searched by date range, location (Florida county, Alabama, Georgia, or other location), license category, and/or sponsoring organization to produce a list of CEU classes of interest. Training classes approved for CEUs are held throughout the year at both in-state and out-of-state locations. The majority of the classes are sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and held at local County Cooperative Extension Service Office locations. Additional classes are sponsored by industry organizations, commercial training firms, pesticide manufacturing representatives, and other organizations, and some online, computer based, and correspondence courses are available. All classes approved for CEUs are listed in the searchable database.

## Forms

Please follow the instructions provided below when printing and completing the forms listed.

1. Use the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view or print forms. Skip this step if Adobe Reader is already installed on your pc.
2. Print forms on white 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
3. Type or print the entire form in blue or black ink.
4. Make check(s) payable to: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES.
5. Mail completed application and check to: FDACS-PESTICIDE LICENSES, Post Office Box 6710, Tallahassee, Florida 32314-6710.
6. Certification exams must be passed before a license is issued.

- FDACS-13312 - [Application for Private Pesticide Applicator License](#)

- FDACS-13313 - [Application for Public Pesticide Applicator License](#)
- FDACS-13310 - [Application for Commercial Pesticide Applicator License](#)

## Related Links

- [Pesticide Certification & Licensing/Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement](#)
- [CEU Class Search](#)
- [Cooperative Extension County Offices](#)
- [Exam Score Search](#)
- [Earned CEU Search](#)

## Contact

If you have any questions, please contact:

### **Pesticide Certification Section**

E-mail: [AESCares@FDACS.gov](mailto:AESCares@FDACS.gov)

3125 Conner Boulevard, Building 8

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Phone: (850) 617-7870

Fax: (850) 617-7895

Updated: June 2024