

The South Carolina Recertification Program

THE SOUTH CAROLINA PESTICIDE CONTROL ACT requires that **Certified Private, Commercial and Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators must meet a license Recertification requirement every five (5) years in order to maintain their applicator licenses.**

Recertification is designed as a program of continuing education. Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) approved Recertification training is conducted by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service and others. Records of the required Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are maintained and Recertification status is conferred by the DPR, which enforces FIFRA and the South Carolina Pesticide Control Act.

The recertification requirement does *not* currently apply to Certified Pesticide Dealers nor to applicators certified in most of Category 12: 12A-Wood Preservation, 12B-TBT Antifouling Paint, 12C - Small Animal Pest Control, 12D-Sewer Line Pest Control.

The current five (5) year recertification block for Commercial and Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators runs from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 and the five year recertification block for Private Applicators runs from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2019.

What are the different applicator classifications?

A **Certified Private Pesticide Applicator** is an individual who is licensed to apply or supervise the application of Restricted Use pesticides in the production of an agricultural commodity on his or her own properties. Applicator classification is not related to either the amount of pesticides applied or the amount of acreage treated.

A **Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator** is a person *no younger than the age of 18* who applies or supervises the application of Restricted Use Pesticides and General use products in Category 3-Turf & Ornamental Pest Control, Cat. 5-Aquatic Pest Control, Cat. 7- Structural Pest control or Cat. 8-Public Health Pest Control. Commercial Applicators can be certified in one or more categories, but can purchase or use Restricted Use pesticides or apply pesticides only in the categories in which they are certified.

A **Certified Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator** is a person under the same stipulations as above but is an individual who applies Restricted Use Pesticides as an employee of a government agency, federal, state or local. These individuals may only use or supervise the use of Restricted Use pesticides or apply pesticides in the categories in which they are certified.

When must I be recertified?

Recertification runs in five (5) year time blocks. You must be recertified within the appropriate five year block. You must remain certified for that five year period. Commercial and Non-commercial Applicators must obtain recertification between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2018. Private Applicators must obtain recertification between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2019. At the end of a five year block, another block begins, and you must be recertified again during this block. This continues as long as you continue to be a Certified Pesticide Applicator. Newly certified Commercial and Private Applicators in the current five year block are *not* required to meet recertification requirements until the *next* five year recertification block.

How do I get recertified?

All Certified Applicators have at least two options to achieve recertification:

- 1) attend DPR approved training sessions, courses or complete online credit courses over the five year period and accumulate the required number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or,
- 2) pass a written examination given during the DPR at specified exam sessions in the last year of the five year block. Most applicators choose to attend training sessions.

Non-commercial Applicators and most Commercial Applicators must accumulate a minimum number of CEUs and Private Applicators must accumulate five (5) CEUs within their respective five year time blocks. Recertification is designed to be a continuous educational and training experience. You should try to obtain recertification credits throughout your five year block.

Don't wait until the last minute to try to meet your recertification requirement! Very few opportunities will be available for those who delay.

New Recertification Requirements for Some Commercial and Noncommercial Applicators

Since the inception of the South Carolina Recertification Requirement, Commercial/Noncommercial Applicators needed ten (10) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to be recertified. Beginning in 2013 some portion of the CEUs for Commercial/Noncommercial Applicators in mandatory certification categories became *category specific*. These changes in CEU requirements are for the state mandatory-certification categories: Cats. 3, 5, 7A, 7B, 8, and are: 1) requiring some of the CEUs obtained to be category specific; 2) increasing the total number of CEUs required in some categories; or 3) both. The DPR assigns Continuing Education Units as either *core-competency* or *category-specific*.

Recertification for the new (2014) Category 12E – Limited Herbicide Application: Commercial applicators certified in this category must accumulate five (5) CEUs in each five-year block.

If a Commercial or Noncommercial Applicator is certified in more than one category, he/she must accumulate *the required number of category specific CCUs for each mandatory certification category*, up to a maximum of 24 CCUs.

If you are certified in more than one mandatory certification category the DPR has information on their web site designed to help you with determining how many CEUs you need for your respective categories:

http://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide_regulation

Commercial/NonCommercial Applicator Mandatory-Certification Category Specific Recertification Requirements

Commercial Mandatory Certification Category	Number of CEUs required per five-year block
Cat. 3 – Ornamental & Turf Pest Control	10; <i>no less than 3 of which are category specific</i>
Cat. 5 – Aquatic Pest Control	10; <i>no less than 3 of which are category specific</i>
Cat. 7A – Structural Pest Control	20; <i>no less than 12 of which must be category specific</i>
Cat. 7B – Structural Fumigation	10; <i>no less than 3 of which must be category specific</i>
Cat. 8 – Public Health Pest Control (mosquito/vector control)	10; <i>no less than 3 of which are category specific</i>
*Cat. 12E – Limited Herbicide Application	5 (no category specific requirements)
<i>More than one of the above categories</i>	<i>3 category specific for each mandatory category - up to a maximum of 24</i>

* New Cat. 12 subcategory only; other Cat. 12 subcategories do *not* require Recertification.

In the last year only of a five-year recertification block:

- applicators may *not* obtain more than one-half of the total number of required *category specific CEUs* and no more than one-half on the required *core-competency CEUs*. Another reason *not to delay getting your CEUs!*

- if an applicator earns any CEUs in *excess* of the minimum number required for their license recertification in the last year of the specified Recertification block up to ½ of these excess CEUs may be “carried over”, both category specific and core-competency, to the next recertification block.

What kind of training will I receive?

Recertification training topics for each five year block are decided upon by the DPR. These topics

- Calibration, Maintenance, and Residue Removal
- Environmental Fate of Pesticides
- Groundwater Protection
- Hazard Communication
- Integrated Pest Management
- Pesticide Label Interpretation
- SDSs for Pesticides
- New Technology and New Regulations
- Endangered Species and Wildlife Protection
- Pesticide Recordkeeping
- Reducing Pesticide Exposure (chronic/acute reduction and use of PPE)
- Safety Planning and Emergency Response
- Transport and Disposal of Pesticides and Rinsates
- Worker Safety
- Identification and Control of Target Pests
- Pesticide Related Issues

The DPR assigns CEUs to training programs on the basis of the number of contact hours presented in the above listed areas. You will not necessarily receive training in all of the above areas in the five year block, especially if you are a Private applicator. Special or additional CCUs *may* be assigned to training courses which require unique or especially active participation by the attendees. For example, aerial applicators who participate in an approved calibration fly-in, such as “Operation SAFE” will receive Recertification credit.

Training sessions and relevant meetings intended to provide CEUs *must be approved in advance* by the DPR. The DPR will assign CEUs to each approved training course or unit of material: one (1) appropriate CEU credit will be assigned for each contact hour of relevant training. Relevancy may be determined by the DPR in consultation with the appropriate Clemson extension, research and teaching personnel, or other experts in the appropriate applicator category. Only training sessions open to the public will be approved. Industry-sponsored training that is relevant to the recertification subject areas and allows public participation can be given appropriate credit.

Appropriate credits are assigned to national or regional training courses, courses or schools, programs in other states, and appropriately structured county Extension

programs *if requested 15 days in advance* by the responsible party. Relevant grower and crop production meetings are also eligible for recertification credit.

An official DPR form must be used to record the participation of certified applicators in an approved training program. It is the responsibility of the person conducting or coordinating the training to seek approval from the DPR for the training by acquiring the necessary form(s) (available from DPR and printable from their website), providing complete and correct information on the forms, and submitting the completed forms back to DPR *15 days prior* to the training program. It is the applicator's responsibility to ensure their license number is duly recorded after the program in order to receive credit for each training event attended. *Bring your license number with you to all training events and be sure to sign the proper attendance sheet after the training to receive CEU credits!*

Private Applicators receive recertification training almost entirely through programs presented through their county Extension office. Contact your county Extension office for recertification opportunities.

The DPR will notify Commercial Applicators of their recertification progress, *i.e.*, how many CEUs they have accumulated during the previous year(s), when they send them their annual license renewal information. The DPR will send a similar statement to Private Applicators during the third year of their five year recertification block. In addition, all pesticide applicators can check their recertification credits (CEUs) on the DPR web site:

http://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide_regulation

NOTE: The above information and requirements are subject to change relative to any pending state and federal policies and regulations.

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