

Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation

Keeping Your Pesticide Applicator License Current



Department of
Pesticide Regulation

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Bulletin 13

A Guide to SC Licensing and Recertification Requirements

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires that anyone who buys, uses, or supervises the use of restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) must have a valid Pesticide Applicator License. With the exception of treatment prescriptions for RUPs written or sold by medical and veterinary doctors, restricted-use pesticides are not sold to the general public. Restricted-use pesticides may only be purchased with a valid Pesticide Applicator License. The Department of Pesticide Regulation is the South Carolina agency responsible for enforcing FIFRA and the State law, the South Carolina Pesticide Control Act (SCPCA).



How Do I Apply for a Commercial Applicator License?

To apply for a Commercial Applicator License, you must:

- 1) Be at least 18 years-old;
- 2) Pass a two-part written exam*;
- 3) Show financial responsibility**;
- 4) Complete the application form; and
- 5) Submit the application fee.

If you are a Pest Control Operator, you must also have:

- 6) A Designated Commercial Applicator (DCA). ***
- 7) Apply for a Business License (with DPR—this does NOT take the place of any state or municipal business license).
- 8) Submit business license fee of \$150.00.

- *Computer based exams are offered at various locations in the State of South Carolina on a regular basis. Part One is the Core Exam, which covers basic issues of pesticides, human and environmental safety, and proper pesticide application. A score of 70% out of 70 questions is a passing grade. Part Two is a Category Exam that is specific to the type of pesticide application work that you wish to perform. A score of 70% out of 30 questions is a passing grade for each Category Exam. Your exam results will be held on file and may be used to apply for a license for up to five years from the date that you pass the exam.
- ****Category 7 applicators must have not less than \$100,000 combined single limit liability coverage, which must include both bodily injury and property damage coverage. Category 3, 5, and 8 applicators must have a \$50,000 minimum with an aggregate claims limit of not less than \$100,000. Other commercial applicator categories must have a \$25,000 minimum with a deductible not exceeding \$1000.** We cannot accept insurance "binders" in lieu of actual proof of insurance. You must provide an insurance policy number before we can issue a commercial license. A list of companies that provide this type of insurance is available through DPR.
- Individuals in Category 12 are required take a 50-question exam with the Core material included in the exam. They should study both the Core and the Category 12 manuals.
- ***A DCA is responsible for supervision and activities at a business location. A DCA must have proof that he or she has either gained at least two years of experience in any area of pest control, including sales or termite treatment, **OR** he or she has earned a four-year degree from an accredited college or university. Contact DPR for more information.

How Do I Prepare for the Pesticide Applicator Exam?

Study materials are available to help you prepare for all parts of this exam. Visit our website (<http://dpr.clemson.edu>) for an order form for these materials OR contact the Bulletin Room at 864.656.3261 for information on ordering study materials. You must pre-register two weeks prior to the exams, and there is a fee for taking the exams. Your test results will be mailed to you four to six weeks after the exam, and they are valid for five years. If you are eligible for a license, the appropriate materials will be included with your test results for you to complete.

Does Everyone Who Works for a Pest Management Professional Need a Commercial License?

Not everyone who works with a PMP needs a Commercial License; however, people who assist a Commercial Applicator—in both sales and pest control activities—must be registered with the Department of Pesticide Regulation as a Registered Technician. This program is administered by the SC Pest Control Association. The DCA is responsible for giving Registered Technicians adequate training for their duties, for issuing Registered Technician cards, and for mailing the registration form to DPR. These cards must be carried by Registered Technicians at all times while performing pest control technician or sales duties and presented to DPR inspectors on request.

What if My Insurance Expires, is Cancelled, or Lapses?

Your license is automatically suspended at any time when your insurance is not in effect. Any pest control activity that you perform without the minimum insurance requirement is a violation of state law. Licenses that are not reinstated within three months of suspension or that expire before your financial responsibility is re-established are revoked. You must then take the Core and Category Exams again and reapply for a new Commercial License.

How Much Does a Commercial Applicator License Cost?

The fee for a Commercial Applicator License is \$50. If there is more than one Commercial Applicator working for a company and if they are at the same location, the fees are \$50 for the first applicator and \$10 per Category for each additional applicator at the same location, up to a maximum of \$50 per person. A separate application must be submitted for each applicator, and all applications should be mailed in one envelope with proper fees included.

How Long are Licenses Valid?

Commercial and Business Licenses expire each year on December 31, unless the license is suspended or revoked. If you do not renew your license by December 31, you will be charged a late fee of 25%. If you do not renew your expired license before April 1 of the following year, you will have to retake the Core and Category Exams and apply for a new license. A renewal notice will be mailed to you each October as a courtesy of DPR. **Return this notice with the proper fees and proof of insurance no later than December 31.**

In addition to returning your renewal notice each year, Commercial Applicators are required to earn recertification credits every five years in order to renew their licenses. Recertification is a program of continuing education designed to help applicators keep up with current standards of safe pesticide use. Your annual renewal notice will tell you how many recertification credits that you have and the end date of the specified five-year recertification block. You can earn recertification credits by attending classes or watching training videos that have been approved by DPR. You must sign an attendance sheet at classes or sign a verification sheet after watching a video. Your license number must be indicated so that proper credit can be awarded.

You can get a copy of the list of classes and videos that have been approved for recertification credit by calling DPR. You may also visit the DPR website at <http://dpr.clemson.edu>. Many of the classes are conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service, and almost all of the videos are available in your County Extension Office. The SC Pest Control Association also has courses for recertification opportunities.

***The Recertification Exam is given any time during the last year of the recertification period. Call DPR at 864.646.2164 for more information on the Recertification Exam.**

Anderson.....	843.494.2332
Aynor.....	843.957.1727
Beaufort.....	843.255.6060 Ext 111
Charleston.....	843.225.7065
Clemson.....	803.260.1462
Columbia.....	803.736.7680 Ext 112
Florence.....	843.667.1393
Newberry.....	803.403.7262
North Myrtle Beach.....	843.360.1512
York.....	803.628.0303



DPR Field Office locations and telephone numbers.



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