

Licensing of Commercial Pest Control Operators (Commercial Pesticide Applicators)

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Procedures for Licensing of Commercial Pest Control Operators (Commercial Applicators)

The Pest Control Board was created by the General Assembly in 1955. The board is responsible for making rules and regulations governing commercial pest control operations in the state -- determining the categories of licenses and qualifications for each license, and examining and recommending applicants for licenses.

Anyone wishing to be licensed in a particular category may write the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Certification Supervisor, P.O. Box 40627, Porter Bldg., Nashville, TN 37204 or The University of Tennessee, PSEP, 2431 Joe Johnson Dr., 205 PSB, Knoxville, TN 37996-4560 for an application and information.

Licensing exams are offered once a quarter in Nashville. Applications for exams will need to be in the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture, Regulatory Services Division, TDA/RSD, office or postmarked by midnight of the 10th of the month preceding the month of the present exam. A fee of \$150 must accompany the application. If approved, the applicant may take the exam the following month (next scheduled exam). For example, application must be in by March 10 to qualify for the April exams; June 10 to qualify for the July exams; Sept. 10 to qualify for the October exam; and December 10 to qualify for the January exam. Applicants may study specimens in the Regulatory Services Division lab on the Monday and the week preceding the exam.

UT offers training the day before the licensing exams in the following categories: HLT, PHMC, GRC and WDO. Generally, the HLT, PHMC, FUM, FUS, AGE and HRI exams are offered on Tuesday; and GRC, WDO, AQW, WEC and BDC exams are offered on Wednesday.

Regulations require that, "at the time of application or at such other times as the board may require, the applicant shall present the affidavit or

certification ('certificate of experience') of persons or firms in whose employment the applicant has acquired any qualifying experience; or a copy of a diploma or certificate as evidence of a qualifying college degree or professional standing".

To be eligible for licensing examinations, the applicant must show that he/she has one or more of the following qualifications:

- the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in entomology, biology, agriculture or related subjects; or
- have at least two years work experience in the category of license for which application is made, provided that no credit shall be allowed for experience failing to comply with the licensing requirements of this act or of a substantially equivalent law of another jurisdiction. Exceptions concerning the degree or two years experience under a licensed applicator are made to the Agriculture Ground and Horticulture, Lawn and Turf categories. However, some experience and knowledge are still required by the board. And, the applicant must appear before the pest control board for a brief oral exam.
- hold a license in the same category from another state.

Requirements for Public Health Mosquito Control licensing category:

1. BS degree or minor in a related field and in C08 certification (Public Health) **OR**
2. Current GRC license and C08 certification, Public Health **OR**
3. Two years of verifiable work experience under a licensee and C08 certification **OR**
4. A license (GRC, or Public Health or PHMC) from another state and C08 certification.

Each person, firm or corporation who wishes to engage in the business of commercial pest control must have an instrument authorizing that person to do so. This instrument is called a charter and may

be obtained from the TDA/Regulatory Services Division.

A charter is required for each office and branch office. Each person applying for or holding a charter is required to have for each office or branch office a licensed commercial pest control operator for each category of service offered. An individual pest control operator may be licensed in one or more categories.

The requirements for holding a charter for a pest control business are as follows:

1. A minimum corporate surety bond of \$10,000 must be posted.
2. Each applicant is required to have a minimum liability insurance of \$250,000 for a single occurrence and \$500,000 aggregate liability. In addition, the WDO applicant must secure errors and omissions liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 single occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate liability.

Each applicant is required to pay \$400 initially and every two years for a charter and \$40 every two years for a license for each category in which he/she is licensed. Each of these (charter and license) expire every two years. The fee may be prorated, depending on when you obtain your charter.

All persons chartered are required to register with TDA/Regulatory Services Division the names, residences and addresses of all salespeople or agents who are authorized to solicit business for them and/or anyone authorized to enter into pest control contracts on their behalf. Each person chartered is required to secure from TDA/Regulatory Services Division a solicitor's registration for any salespeople or agents (technicians and solicitors). The fee for a registration card is \$40. Forty dollars must be paid every two years for each technician, solicitor and licensed operator. This may be prorated on initial purchase.

Categories of Licensed Pest Control Operators (Licensed Commercial Applicators)

Licenses are issued in 12 separate categories. To obtain a license in the category for which you are going to do pest control work, you must pass the required exams.

The respective certification category, consisting of the general standards (CORE) and the certification category (one exam) is the first exam to be taken, followed by the appropriate licensing category exam. The CORE/Certification Category exam must be passed before you can take any licensing category exam(s).

Steps In Obtaining a License

1. Obtain education requirements and/or experience under a licensed applicator.
2. Apply to TDA/RSD with the \$150 fee and receive approval to take the licensing exam.
3. Take and pass licensing exams (written and practical).
4. Secure an application for a charter and bond form from TDA/RSD.
5. Secure a \$10,000 bond and liability insurance of \$250,000 for a single occurrence and \$500,000 aggregate liability. In addition, the WDO applicant must secure errors and omissions liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 single occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate liability.
6. Show proof of bonding, certificate of insurance and pay fees to TDA/Regulatory Services Division to obtain a charter.

Address to obtain applications:

TDA Pesticide Certification Supervisor
P.O. Box 40627, Porter Bldg.
Nashville, TN 37204

LICENSING CATEGORIES and corresponding CERTIFICATION CATEGORIES

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| WDO | Wood Destroying Organisms | Cat. 7 | Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health (General Household and Structural Pests) |
| GRC | General Pest & Rodent Control | Cat. 7 | Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health |
| WEC | Weed Control | Cat. 6 | Right-Of-Way |
| AQW | Aquatic Weed | Cat. 5 | Aquatic Pest Control |
| FUA | Fumigation -- Agricultural | Cat. 1 | Agricultural Pest Control |
| FUS | Fumigation -- Structural | Cat. 7 | Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health |
| PHM | Public Health Mosquito | Cat. 8 | Depending on type of pesticide application |
| BDC | Bird Control | Cat. 7 | Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health |
| AGE | Agriculture -- Ground Equipment | Cat. 1 | Agricultural Pest Control |
| HLT | Horticulture -- Lawn & Turf | Cat. 3 | Ornamental and Turf |
| HRI | Horticulture -- Interior | Cat. 3 | Ornamental and Turf |
| PCC | Pest Control Consultant | Cat. 1-14, 16 | (Category depends on special situation) |
| | Special Category | Cat. 1-14, 16 | (Category depends on special situation) |

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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Agricultural Extension Service

Charles L. Norman, Dean



PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE AND CHARTER INFORMATION

LICENSING:

Each separate office offering application of pesticides for a fee must have at least one licensee for each category of service. This is typically the owner and/or supervisor of technicians. License exam applicants must qualify by one of three (3) ways:

1. Have two years verifiable working experience under a licensee in that category.
2. Possess a four-year college degree with a major in a related field, or
3. Hold a similar license in another state.

Candidates for the Agricultural Ground Equipment and Horticulture, Lawn and Turf that do not meet the above requirements can appear before the board to be considered for a special waiver of these requirements. Those seeking a Consultant License must qualify by degree.

License exams are given four (4) times a year January, April, July, and October. The exams are given in the Nashville office only. Applications are due by the 10th of the month preceding the exam, any applications post marked after the 10th will not be accepted. Detailed instructions are listed on the application form. The exam fee is \$150.00 per category for initial or re-examination.

License exams are given in two (2) parts. The morning session is a multiple-choice "written" exam. If it is passed the examinee returns in the afternoon for the identification of specimens specific to that category. Both parts must be passed and an examinee who passes the first part but fails the second will be

License Categories

AGE, FUS

HLT, HRI

AQW

WEC

WDO, GRC, FUM, BDC

PHMC

Corresponding Certification

C01

C03

C05

C06

C07

C08

required to repeat the identification part upon re-examination. The Consultant and some Special categories are non-tested categories but require an appearance before the Pest Control Board. Applicants who fail to appear to take the exam will not receive a refund.

Passing the exam entitles you to apply for a license. The Pesticide Registration and License Issuance section will instruct you on the fees to be paid. For more information call (615) 837-5148.

You must maintain a current certification in the area of work you are licensed in order to be able to renew your license.

CHARTER:

Before you apply for your charter, you must show an original copy of the \$10,000.00 surety bond, and an insurance policy with coverage of \$250,000.00 for a single occurrence of liability and \$500,000.00 aggregate liability of the annual period of insurance. Both bond and insurance need to have the company name listed. For those desiring to work in the Wood Destroying organisms category in addition to the above liability insurance, will hold errors and omissions of \$100,000 for a single occurrence of liability, and \$300,000 aggregate errors and omissions liability for the annual period of insurance. Your charter is invalid if you lose your insurance or bond.

Each business (separate location) offering the application of pesticides for a fee must hold a pest control charter. Each chartered location must have at least one licensee in each category of service offered. Applications for a charter are available from the Department and will list all requirements.

The registration for non-clerical employees (solicitors and technicians) is to be submitted within ten (10) days of their employment. Solicitor's cards must be carried while the employee is on duty, but are the property of the company and must be returned to the Department upon their termination. Certification cards are the property of the technician and must not be held by the employer.