



Soil Fumigation Licensing Fact Sheet

Why did WSDA develop a new Soil Fumigation Exam?

WSDA implemented a new Soil Fumigation Exam on November 1, 2012. This exam, which replaces the Soil Fumigation Exam in place since 2002, addresses new risk mitigation measures (RMM) implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through two rounds of label changes. The old category is called Soil Fumigation while the new category is called Soil Fumigation **RMM**.

The Phase 1 label changes - which required applicator licensing, more stringent direct supervision requirements, fumigant management plans and safety training for handlers - appeared on labels in late 2010. Phase 2 changes, expected on labels by December 2012, require that applicators adhere to buffer zones and successfully complete EPA-approved active ingredient specific training every three years. Training is through online modules, each followed by a competency exam.

WSDA's new Soil Fumigation RMM Exam can be substituted for this training. Once the Soil Fumigation RMM category is added to a pesticide license, no further label-mandated training is required as long as the applicator successfully recertifies their license every five years. For information on recertification, go to <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/Recertification.aspx>. Note: The non-RMM Soil Fumigation category **DOES NOT** qualify for this training exemption.

How does this apply to Private Applicators (PA)?

Generally, PAs do not add categories to their license. The one exception prior to the Soil Fumigation RMM category is the Aquatic category, which is only done in limited, mandatory situations. In the case of the Soil Fumigation RMM category, PAs are not required to add this category but can do so as an option to the label-mandated training. Another significant change for PAs, effective on Phase 1 labels, involves the following direct supervision requirements:

- Shank applications – the PA must be physically present and in the line of sight of the entire application and must directly supervise all persons performing handling activities.
- Water-run applications – the PA must be physically present and in the line of sight through the start of the application, including set-up and calibration. The PA must return every 2 hours **OR** be able to communicate with a trained handler who is performing monitoring activities.

How does this apply to Commercial Applicators (CA) & Operators (CO)?

CAs and COs currently licensed in the Soil Fumigation category can either add the new Soil Fumigation RMM category or complete the EPA-authorized online modules/exams. Since Nov.1, 2012, only the new Soil Fumigation RMM exam is being offered. Those adding this new category will not need to take the EPA-authorized training as long as they successfully recertify their pesticide license. Note: Because Washington's definition of direct supervision for commercial applications requires the licensed applicator to be within visual and voice contact of any unlicensed applicator, application and monitoring activities are generally performed by a licensed applicator.

How do I take Washington pesticide exams?

The most important element is adequate preparation. WSDA's Exam Preparation Fact Sheet at <http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/docs/preparingfortheexamsessionEN.pdf> provides information. (Note: The Soil Fumigation Manual currently being offered by WSU is for the new exam.) Find a WSDA testing location at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/Licensing.aspx#TakingExams> and then call Pesticide Licensing at (877) 301-4555 to make a reservation. Note: There is a \$25 testing session fee in addition to any license application fees due.

How do I take the EPA-approved training?

The training is available at http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil_fumigants/, which is EPA's very extensive website for RMM resources.