



## Pesticide Licensing for Professional Mosquito Control

Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide Management Division  
PO Box 42560  
Olympia WA 98504-2560  
(877) 301-4555

### Terms and Definitions

- *Restricted Use Pesticide* - any pesticide that is classified as restricted use by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) at the time of registration. Most pesticides applied to water are designated as state restricted use by WSDA. Larvicides labeled only for home and garden use are **not** state restricted use pesticides.
- *Private Applicator* – person who applies or supervises the use of a restricted use pesticide to their own or their employer’s agricultural land (farms, ranches, greenhouses, nurseries, forests, etc.).
- *Private Commercial Applicator* – person who applies or supervises the use of a restricted use pesticide to their own or their employer’s non-agricultural land (apartment complexes, private golf courses, private institutions, apple warehouses, grain storage facilities, etc.).
- *Commercial Applicator* - head of a commercial business that applies pesticides to the land/property of others.
- *Commercial Operator* – employee of a commercial applicator who applies or supervises the use of any pesticide as part of the business. May also consult on the use of pesticides.
- *Public Operator* – public employee who, as part of their public agency job, applies or supervises the use of any pesticide through power equipment or any restricted use pesticide. May also consult on the use of pesticides. (Public: city, county, state, federal, public utility, etc.)
- *Public or Commercial Consultant* – person who makes recommendations or gives advice to the user of any non-home and garden pesticide. Consultants are not licensed to apply pesticides.
- *Dealer Manager* – person who sells non-home and garden pesticides from a Pesticide Dealer outlet. Dealer Manager’s can give advice from within the outlet but cannot apply pesticides or consult "in the field."

### Who is required to have a WSDA pesticide license?

- Any person applying a restricted use pesticide,
- Any person who is in the business of applying pesticides,
- Any public employee who applies a restricted use pesticides or a general use pesticide through power equipment, or
- Individuals who consult or sell non-home and garden pesticides.

### What license categories (endorsements) are required for mosquito control?

- Public Health Pest Control and the Statewide categories allow for both larvicide and adulticide applications. (Note: the exam for the Statewide category is no longer available.)
- Aquatic Pest Control allows for both larvicide and adulticide aquatic applications. Note: the Aquatic Irrigation category does not allow for larvicide applications.
- The following categories allow for adulticide applications on those sites typical of the category:

- Agricultural Insect and Disease;
- Turf & Ornamental Insect and Disease; and,
- PCO General.
- Livestock Pest Control allows for applications on and around livestock.
- Private Applicators must hold the Aquatic Pest Control endorsement if they make larvicide applications to water that moves off their agricultural property. The Private Applicator license alone is sufficient for applications to standing water that does not flow off the agricultural property.

### **What exams must I pass to be certified for mosquito control?**

- Individuals who meet the definition of a Private Applicator take that exam. All other new pesticide applicators must pass the Laws and Safety exam, plus the Public Health Pest Control Exam or Aquatic Pest Control Exam if they will be applying adulticides and larvicides. (Agricultural or Turf & Ornamental Insect and Disease Control exams allow for adulticide applications only.)

### **Where can I get training materials and training courses to prepare for the exams?**

- Washington State University (WSU) Pesticide Education Program offers study manuals for all pesticide license categories related to mosquito control. General prelicense training courses are offered in the winter months at statewide locations. In addition, WSU has an on-line prelicense training program for the Public Health category. Go to <http://pep.wsu.edu> for further information.
- Mosquito control districts and associations may also offer training.

### **Where can I take the pesticide exams?**

- WSDA offers testing every Tuesday in their Yakima and Olympia offices. Other WSDA offices provide exams monthly (Wenatchee, Spokane and Everett) or bimonthly (Moses Lake). Reservations are required and can be made by calling WSDA toll-free at (877) 301-4555.

### **What are the annual pesticide license fees?**

- \$25 for Private Applicators, Public Operators\*, Private Commercial Applicators
- \$50 for Commercial Operators
- \$170 for Commercial Applicators plus \$20 for each piece of power equipment after the first one

\* Public operators licensed only in the Public Health category are exempt from the fee.

### **What are the continuing education (recertification) requirements necessary to maintain a pesticide license?**

#### Option 1:

- Public Operators, Commercial Applicators, Commercial Operators, Private-Commercial Applicators – 40 credits every 5 years, with no more than 15/year.
- Private Applicators – 20 credits every 5 years, with no more than 8/year.

#### Option 2:

- Retest every five years.