

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
OFFICE OF PESTICIDE SERVICES**

P. O. Box 1163 • Richmond, VA 23218
Phone: (804) 371-0152 • Fax: (804) 786-9149 • www.vdacs.virginia.gov

Instructions for Completing the Applications for Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification

You must complete **Application A** if you wish to become certified as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator in Virginia, **and you have never applied to become a certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator**. If you have previously applied, or are already certified as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator, please use **Application B**. (See Page 2 for more information on Application B.)

Requirements:

In order to qualify to take the Commercial Pesticide Applicator certification exams, you must meet **one** of the following requirements:

1. You must currently hold a valid Virginia Registered Technician certificate, and must have worked as a certified Registered Technician for at least one year; **OR**
2. You must have at least one year of education, training, or experience in a pesticide- related field which has provided at least the equivalent practical knowledge of proper pesticide use required of a Registered Technician. You will need to provide a description of this education, training, or experience with this application.

Persons who have been convicted of a violation of any federal, state or local pesticide law may not apply for certification. In addition, persons who have had a Virginia applicator certificate or a pesticide business license revoked may not apply for certification within a two-year period following that action.

Study Manuals:

Before attempting to take any Commercial Applicator certification exams, you should first study the material contained in the most current edition of the Virginia Pesticide Applicator Training Core Manual, and other category-specific manuals related to the type of work you are going to be performing. You may order manuals by visiting the Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs website at <http://www.vtpp.org> . Information on study manuals is enclosed.

Application A:

Fill out your application **completely**, being sure to include the following:

1. Complete name
2. Certificate class desired
3. Social Security Number (**Required**)
4. E-mail address
5. Your mailing address (where you want the Office of Pesticide Services to send your mail)
6. Your employer information
7. Your qualifications as they relate to pesticides (additional information may be requested if insufficient information is provided):
 - a. Registered Technician - If you are or have been a registered technician in Virginia for at least one year, please provide your Registered Technician Certificate Number.
 - b. Experience and training – If you have not been a Registered Technician in Virginia

- for at least one year and do not have one year or more of education in a pesticide related field, provide specific dates of employment in a pesticide field (not just years) as well as the types or specific names of pesticides you applied, equipment used, each employers' name. If trained by a certified commercial applicator include their name. Experience and training must be associated with job experience, not personal use of pesticides around your own home or property.
- c. Formal education, provide information on the type of degree or career studies certificate you earned in a pesticide related field. Include the name of the educational institution.
8. Categories in which you wish to be examined (See insert for category descriptions)
 9. Your signature and date of application
 10. Your fee of **\$100.00** (Government employees are exempt from the fee.)

Application B:

Please complete **Application B** and submit the appropriate fee if you have previously applied to become a certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator. This is the application you should use if you wish to:

1. Retake any exams you have not passed on a previous attempt (\$100 fee if not certified).
2. Take exams to become certified in additional categories. (Fee \$35.00 per application)
3. Retake Core and category exams in order to recertify, instead of attending a recertification course (\$100 Fee).
4. To retake exams in order to reinstate an expired certificate (\$100).

Fill out your application **completely**, being sure to include the following:

1. Reason for taking the exams
2. Certificate class desired
3. Social Security Number (**Required**)
4. Certification number
5. E-mail address
6. Your mailing address (where you want the Office of Pesticide Services to send your mail)
7. Your employer information
8. Categories in which you wish to be examined (See insert for category descriptions)
9. Your signature and date of application
10. Appropriate Fee (\$100.00 or \$35.00) (Government employees are exempt from fees)

Notice of Authorization:

Once your complete application is received, the Office of Pesticide Services will review your application. If you meet the requirements above, you will be authorized to be examined. You will receive a Notice of Authorization that must be presented at the testing center, along with photo identification. Qualified applicants have 90 days from the date of the letter to sit **one time** for the examinations. If your Notice of Authorization expires before you have taken an exam, you must reapply.

Testing:

To become a Commercial Applicator, you must first pass a Core Examination.* This test deals with general principles of pesticide safety, and knowledge of appropriate federal and state laws and regulations. Then, you must further demonstrate competency in a particular type of pest control by passing the appropriate category examination(s).

** (Persons preparing for certification in Category 5B, Marine Antifoulant Paints, are required to take only the category examination.)*

The Commercial Core and category examinations are all written examinations. They are administered in writing at VDACS testing centers and on touch-screen computers at Department of Motor Vehicles Customer Service Centers. Examinations are given during business hours at more than 70 local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Customer Service Centers, or by appointment at 11 VDACS testing centers. Exams on the DMV computerized equipment are scored as you are taking them, and you will be notified of your score as you complete each exam. Written exams taken at VDACS testing centers will be sent to the Office of Pesticide Services in Richmond to be scored. A score of 76% is the passing score required to earn a commercial applicator certificate. Once you have passed the Core exam, you may take any additional category exams listed on your Notice of Authorization, **at one sitting**. Most exams have a one-hour time limit, and **you should allow sufficient time to complete all exams before the closing time of the DMV Customer Service Center.**

Receiving your certificate:

If you pass the Core and one or more category examinations, the Office of Pesticide Services (OPS) will notify you, and send you your certificate. If you take and pass your exams at one of the DMV Customer Service Centers, your completed Notice of Authorization will serve as a temporary certificate good for seven days. Your permanent certificate will be mailed to you by OPS within seven days.

If you are applying pesticides for hire, you must work for a firm that holds a valid Virginia Pesticide Business License, issued by the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. You will not receive a certificate without a valid license.

If you fail an exam, OPS will notify you, and will send you a new application. Another application and fee is required to take an exam again.

Maintaining your certificate:

Once you have obtained your certification, you are responsible for maintaining an active certificate through **recertification training** and **renewing** your certificate biennially. Your expiration **AND** recertification deadlines will be displayed on your certificate. It is your responsibility to notify OPS of any mailing address or employer changes to ensure you receive updates on when to recertify and renew. Failure to renew a certificate, either due to failure to respond to the renewal notice or failure to recertify, will result in certificate expiration. **If you allow your certificate to expire for more than 60 days, for any reason, by law you must retest to reinstate your certificate.**

Renewal of your certificate:

Commercial Applicator Certificates expire June 30* and must be renewed every biennially (2 year cycle). The Office of Pesticide Services will send you a renewal notice every other year prior to the certificate expiring. A renewal form and a \$100.00 renewal fee must be returned to OPS on or before June 30 of your renewal year to avoid a penalty fee. (This fee is waived for federal, state and local government employees.) No late renewals will be accepted after August 29. Applications for renewal will not be processed unless you have at least two years of recertification credit. *Note: The complete expiration date including the year will appear on the certificate as the "Expire Date".

Recertification:

To qualify for renewal, you must have attended recertification training approved by OPS for the category (or categories) in which you are certified. When you attend recertification courses you must sign an attendance roster and complete an Application for Recertification form. You will earn up to two years of recertification credit per category for each approved program you attend. You can accumulate up to a maximum of four years of credit. If you are unable to attend recertification training, you may recertify by applying to be reexamined, using Application B, and retaking your certification exams. If you do not recertify, you will not be permitted to renew your certificate.

Recertification courses:

Commercial Applicator recertification courses are offered by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, pesticide-related trade and professional organizations, and others. Program availability varies by category and by season. Most courses are offered between September and March. Keep in touch with your local Extension Agent and/or professional organizations to avoid missing recertification opportunities. A current listing of all approved recertification courses may be obtained from the Office of Pesticide Services, Virginia Cooperative Extension offices, Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs, or from the Internet, using the WWW pages listed below.

Sources of Information:

Questions regarding federal and state pesticide regulations, applicator certification, approved commercial applicator recertification workshops, and the legal responsibilities of pesticide users:

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Office of Pesticide Services (OPS)**

Phone: (804) 371-0152 / Fax 804-786-9149

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides.shtml>

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23218

Physical Address

102 Governor Street, Lower Level
Richmond, VA 23219

Questions regarding pesticide management techniques, sources of approved preparatory training sessions and recertification workshops for private and commercial applicators:

(Consult local listings for telephone number)

**Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs (VTPP)**

302 Agnew Hall, Code 0409

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA 24061-5814

(540) 231-6543

<http://www.vtpp.org>