

Recertification Programs for Commercial Pesticide Applicators and Registered Technicians

5/30/2019

Minimum Required Content:

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Pesticide Services (OPS), has established minimum requirements to be met by any program approved for the recertification of commercial applicators in Virginia. The content of the essential material has been divided into two sections: Legal Aspects and Category-Related Information. A list of the Minimum Training Information Required for Commercial Applicator Certification in Virginia is reprinted below.

Legal Aspects:

- L-1 Reminder to FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS, including those on use, storage, disposal and transportation.
- L-2 Review possible consequences of violating the law.
- L-3 Reminder that restricted-use pesticides purchased under an applicator's certificate number must be for use by certified applicators only.
- L-4 Review a certified applicator's responsibilities in supervising the use of restricted-use pesticides by non-certified applicators.
- L-5 Review record-keeping responsibilities of commercial applicators for restricted-use pesticide applications.

Category-Related Training:

- T-1 Review general safety for the applicator, co-workers, and the public.
- T-2 Review the environmental aspects of pesticide use, including impact on non-target organisms, wildlife, domestic animals, groundwater, etc.
- T-3 Review application techniques, including equipment, calibration, and maintenance.
- T-4 Review hazards (both personal safety and environmental) unique to that specific category.
- T-5 Review pertinent information re: new chemistry/new formulations available that would be of use to applicators certified in the category.
- T-6 Review Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programs applicable to the category.
- T-7 Review of pests specific to category; include in-depth training on identification and control of selected specific pests. This section may be tailored to local needs/problems.

With the exception of the Legal Aspects presentation, the content material listed above may be communicated by a variety of methods, including live presentations, audiovisual programs, handouts, lobby displays, hands-on activities/practice sessions for participants, and demonstrations. For in-state commercial recertification courses, the area OPS investigator must be invited by the course sponsor to present the legal aspects portion of the program. For out of state courses or when a VDACS staff member is not available for an in-state course, a copy of the legal aspects presentation will be provided to the course sponsor to present.

Registered Technicians may recertify by attending a commercial course approved for the category corresponding to the type of pesticide use performed.

OPS expects all recertification programs to emphasize safe pesticide use and new developments in the field.

Course Length:

No time limits have been set for the overall course. However, OPS expects that, to adequately present the required course content, a commercial recertification session will be four to eight hours in length (depending on the number of categories presented), with category-specific pesticide-related sessions. There is currently no "credit hour" system for commercial applicators in Virginia.

Sponsors should check with VDACS staff in advance to determine their availability to provide the

Legal Update as well as the time needed for its presentation. The Legal Update must be presented in its entirety (45 minutes to 1 hour) so sufficient time must be provided. If a course sponsor does not provide sufficient time to present the legal aspects presentation, the VDACS presenter may decline presenting and credit may be denied for the course.

Planning Tips:

To plan a program that will be approved, be sure each of the twelve items on the checklist will be covered. However, it is not necessary to have 12 different presentations, one per topic. Several of the 12 required topics may be presented so they are relevant to many different categories of commercial applicator (L1 - L5 - legal aspects, T1 - personal safety, and T2 - environmental safety). Topics T3 - T7 should be category-specific. Many of the Category-Related Information training topics are interrelated. For example, a presentation dealing with the types of pesticide drift and drift prevention may satisfy both the T-2 (environmental aspects of pesticide use) and T-4 (category-specific hazards) requirements.

Programs approved for multiple unrelated categories, involving both a general session and separate, category-specific break-out sessions need special attention. In such a course, legal aspects (and possibly personal and environmental safety) may be addressed in a general session attended by a large group of commercial applicators certified in a variety of categories. Category-specific training would be presented in smaller break-out sessions. If you plan such a course, please make it very clear in the announcements / pre-registration forms that, because of concurrent category-related session, those who attend may not recertify in all the categories for which the course is approved. **To avoid misunderstandings, please state available attendance options in all course announcements. You will also need to be able to document attendance in the specific sessions.**

Approval Requests:

Courses should be submitted 30 days prior to the course date to allow adequate time for review and approval. Courses submitted less than 14 days before the course date will be accepted for evaluation only if the office workload allows time for evaluation, and preparation and mailing of approval paperwork.

Course submissions should include a course agenda, brief descriptions or outlines of the session contents, the date(s) and location(s) for the course, and the name, address, and phone (and fax) numbers of the course sponsor. Please also include the method of topic presentation, and time allotted per topic. Do not send an agenda alone; **you must provide a brief summary of each program segment.**

Send an approval request and the course content description to:

Tonita J. Clark, Program Coordinator
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Pesticide Services, Room LL13
Certification, Licensing, Registration and Training Section
P. O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23218
Telephone: (804) 786-0685
FAX: (804) 786-9149
e-mail: Tonita.Clark@vdacs.virginia.gov

The course sponsor must agree to carry out all administrative responsibilities related to recertification. If insufficient course information is received and the course sponsor does not promptly reply to inquiries from this office, the course will not be approved for recertification credit.

Please note that OPS does not approve a program without first reviewing the agenda. As a result,

courses may not be advertised as approved until OPS approval has actually been granted. No courses are approved retroactively. If a course is “in-house”, and not open to all applicators, please notify OPS.

Private Applicator Recertification Approval:

Recertification credits for private applicator (grower) sessions are assigned by Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs (VTPP). Please contact VTPP at (540) 231-6543 for more information.

Course Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Conduct the course in accordance with the approved agenda submitted to OPS;
- Allow sufficient time for presentation of the VDACS legal update;
- Monitor the attendance of all applicators through the use of a Virginia Recertification Roster (or a pre-approved alternative method);
- Provide applicators who complete the course with a Virginia Application for Recertification, along with instructions for completing it;
- Collect all completed Applications,
- Reconcile the Applications with the Recertification Roster for the course, and
- Submit all original paperwork to OPS for processing within 30 days after the date the course is held.

Course sponsors are expected to make and retain copies of all paperwork submitted to OPS on behalf of applicators. Denial of course credit or the ability to sponsor future courses may occur if a course

sponsor does not return the original copies of the completed Applications for Recertification and Recertification Roster within the timeframe requested in the course approval letter (30 days). **If these documents are not received within 90 days following date of the course, credits may be denied to all attendees.**

References:

Code of Virginia: § 3.2-3930. Application and Certification of commercial applicators; and, § 3.2-3932.

Application and certification of private applicators.

Virginia Administrative Code: 2VAC5-675-30. Commercial Applicator Certificate Fee; 2VAC5-675-40.

Registered Technician Certificate Fee; 2 VAC 5-685-130, Renewal of Certification.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Guidance Document 5025. *Applicator Recertification Options; Approval Procedures for Recertification Courses*. Revised 12/19/2018.

Available on Virginia Regulatory Town Hall:

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewGDoc.cfm?gdid=5025>.

