

Pesticides

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 must write the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industries (TDA/DPI), P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204 for an application.

Applications for exams will need to be in the Plant Industries office postmarked by midnight of the 10th of the month preceding the month of the present exam. 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 Plant Industry lab on the Monday and the week preceding the exam.

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 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.

- hold a license in the same category from another state.

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/DPI.

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 \$5,000 must be posted.
2. Each applicant is required to have a minimum insurance of \$50,000, 100,000 and \$300,000. In addition, the applicant is required to pay \$200 for a charter and \$20 for a license for each category in which he/she is licensed. Each of these (charter and license) expire on June 30 each year and should be renewed on or before July 1. For renewals, the fee of \$200/charter and \$20/license category must be paid annually.

All persons chartered are required to register with TDA/DPI 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/DPI a solicitor's registration for any

salespeople or agents (technicians and solicitors). The fee for a registration card is \$20. Twenty dollars must be paid annually for each technician, solicitor and licensed operator.

Categories of Licensed Applicators (Licensed Certified 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 general standard exam (CORE/Certification Category) 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/DPI 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/DPI.
5. Secure a \$5,000 bond and liability insurance (\$50,000, \$100,000 and \$300,000) from an insurance company.
6. Show proof of bonding, certificate of insurance and pay fees to TDA/DPI to obtain a charter.

Address to obtain applications:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Division of Plant Industries
P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204

Licensing Categories (Pest Control Operators)

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 (General Household and Structural Pests)
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 (General Household and Structural Pests)
BDC	Bird Control	Cat. 7	Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health (General Household and Structural Pests)
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. 10	Demonstration, Research and Regulatory
	Special Category	Cat. 1-14, 16	(Category depends on special situation)