

# The South Carolina Recertification Program

INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLY Restricted Use Pesticides and Pest Control Operators (Category 7) must be certified to do so under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the South Carolina Pesticide Control Act. The South Carolina Pesticide Control Act requires that **all Commercial and Non-commercial Pesticide Applicators certified in South Carolina must meet a Recertification requirement every five (5) years in order to maintain their applicator's licenses.**

Recertification is designed as a program of continuing education. Recertification training is conducted by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, and others, and approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Recertification status is conferred and applicator credit hour records are maintained by the DPR, which enforces FIFRA and the South Carolina Pesticide Control Act.

The Recertification requirement does not currently apply to certified pesticide dealers or to applicators certified in Category Twelve: Wood Preservation (12a) and TBT Antifouling Paint (12b). The current five (5) year recertification block for Commercial and Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators runs from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2008 and the five year recertification block for Private Applicators runs from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2009.

### What are the different applicator classifications?

**A Certified Private Pesticide Applicator** is an individual who is licensed to apply or supervise the application of Restricted Use Pesticides in the production of an agricultural commodity on his or her own properties. Applicator classification is not related to either the amount of pesticides applied or the amount of acreage treated.

**A Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator** is a person over the age of eighteen (18) who applies or supervises the application of Restricted Use Pesticides for or works as a pest control operator (Category 7). Commercial Applicators can be certified in one or more categories, but can use Restricted Use Pesticides only in the categories in which they are certified.

**A Certified Non-commercial Pesticide Applicator** is an individual who applies Restricted Use Pesticides as an employee of a government agency, federal, state or local. As in the case of Commercial Applicators, these individuals may only use or supervise the use of Restricted Use Pesticides in the categories in which they are certified.

### When must I be recertified?

Recertification runs in five (5) year time blocks. You must be recertified within the appropriate five year block. You must remain certified for that five year period. Commercial and Non-commercial Applicators must obtain recertification between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2008. Private Applicators must obtain recertification between January 1, 2005 and

December 31, 2009. At the end of your five year block, another block begins, and you must be recertified again during this block. This continues as long as you continue to be a certified pesticide applicator. Newly certified Commercial and Private Applicators —individuals who have just received their license— are not required to meet recertification requirements until the next five year recertification block.

### How do I get recertified?

All certified applicators have two options to achieve recertification:

- 1) attend DPR-approved training sessions or courses over the five year period and accumulate the required number of Continuing Certification Hours (CCHs) or, if unable to complete the required hours of recertification training,
- 2) pass a written examination given during the DPR July and October quarterly exam sessions in the last year of the five year block. Most applicators choose to attend training sessions.

Commercial and Non-commercial Applicators must accumulate ten (10) CCHs and Private Applicators must accumulate five (5) CCHs within their respective five year time blocks. Recertification is designed to be a continuous educational and training experience. You should try to obtain recertification credits throughout your five year block. *Don't wait until the last minute to try to meet your recertification requirement! Very few opportunities will be available for those who wait.*

Training sessions and relevant meetings intended to provide Continuing Certification Hours must be approved in advance by Clemson University's

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). The DPR will assign CCHs to each approved training course or unit of material; one (1) CCH credit will be assigned for each contact hour of relevant training. Relevancy is determined by the DPR in consultation with the appropriate Clemson extension, research and teaching personnel, or other experts in the appropriate applicator category. Only training sessions open to the public will be approved. Industry-sponsored training that is relevant to the recertification subject areas and allows public participation can be given appropriate credit.

Appropriate credit will be assigned to national or regional training courses, courses or schools, programs offered by other states, and appropriately structured county programs if requested 30 days in advance by the responsible party. Relevant grower and crop production meetings are also eligible for recertification credit.

An official DPR form must be used to record the participation of certified applicators in an approved training program. It is the responsibility of the person conducting or coordinating the training to seek approval from the DPR for the training by acquiring the necessary form(s) (available from DPR, and printable from their website), providing the correct information on the forms, and submitting the completed forms back to DPR 30 days prior to the training program. It is the applicator's responsibility to ensure their license number is duly recorded after the program in order to receive credit for each training event attended. **Bring your license number with you to all training events and be sure to sign the proper attendance sheet to receive CCH credit!**

Private Applicators receive recertification training almost entirely through programs presented through their county Extension office. Approved video tapes and related materials may be available in county Extension offices

for Private and Commercial recertification training. Contact your county Extension office for recertification opportunities. The Clemson University Pesticide Information Program web site <http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid> has a schedule of approved recertification trainings provided by county Extension offices throughout the state.

The DPR will notify Commercial Applicators of their recertification progress, i.e., how many CCHs they have accumulated during the previous year(s), when the DPR sends them their annual license renewal information. The DPR will send a similar statement to Private Applicators during the third year of their five year recertification block. In addition, all pesticide applicators can now check their recertification credits on the DPR web site [http://dpr.clemson.edu/index\\_flash.html](http://dpr.clemson.edu/index_flash.html). On this same site is a list of meetings and training sessions approved with recertification credit.

#### **What kind of training will I receive?**

Recertification training topics for each five year block are decided upon by DPR in conjunction with the Clemson University Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences Pesticide Applicator Training Program and the EPA. New standards emphasize the need for increased training during the current five year block in the following subject areas:

- Calibration, Maintenance, and Residue Removal
- Environmental Fate of Pesticides
- Groundwater Protection
- Hazard Communication
- Integrated Pest Management
- Pesticide Label Interpretation
- MSDS for Pesticides
- New Technology and New Regulations
- Endangered Species and Wildlife Protection

- Pesticide Recordkeeping
- Reducing Pesticide Exposure (chronic/acute reduction and use of PPE)
- Safety Planning and Emergency Response
- Transport and Disposal of Pesticides and Rinsates
- Worker Safety
- Identification and Control of Target Pests
- Pesticide Related Issues

The DPR assigns CCHs to training programs on the basis of the number of contact hours presented in the above listed areas. You will not necessarily receive training in all of the above areas in the five year block, especially if you are a Private applicator. Special or additional CCHs may be assigned to training courses which require unique or especially active participation by the attendees. For example, aerial applicators who participate in an approved calibration fly-in, such as "Operation SAFE" will receive Recertification credit.

NOTE: The above information and requirements are subject to change relative to pending state and federal policies and regulations.

Questions or comments on Recertification should be directed to:

Recertification and Private License Mgr.  
Department of Pesticide Regulation  
511 Westinghouse Road  
Pendleton, SC 29670  
(864)646-2150  
or  
Robert G. Bellinger, Ph.D.  
Pesticide Coordinator  
Dept of Entomology, Soils, & Plant Sciences  
107 Long Hall  
Clemson University  
Clemson, SC 29634-0315  
(864)656-5042  
or  
Your County Extension Agent