



2023 PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

Private Applicator Certificates (PAC) allow you to use federal and California restricted pesticides and train employees as pesticide handlers or fieldworkers. PAC are valid for 3 years, expiring on December 31 of the expiration year. Applicants must pass a written examination with a minimum score of 70%.

New requirements for licensing beginning on January 1, 2024 will require all existing Private Applicator Certificate holders to retake and pass a revised exam. See the New Requirements information on the second page of this notice. Exams are given at the San Mateo County Agriculture Dept. offices by appointment only.

CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

LAST NAME: A THROUGH H

Certificates issued for last names beginning A through H will expire **December 31, 2024**. The certificate holder must pass the new written private applicator recertification examination before a new certificate is issued.

LAST NAME: I THROUGH Q

Certificates issued for last names beginning I through Q will expire **December 31, 2022**. The certificate holder must obtain six hours of continuing education before December 31, 2022 **or** pass the new written private applicator recertification examination before a new certificate is issued.

To renew the certification for 2023, the cardholder is required to obtain six hours of continuing education (two hours in laws and regulations) during the 3 year period. You must provide the department with copies of certificates of completion for courses attended. If your PAC is not renewed within 90 days of expiration, you will be required to take and pass the new certification exam.

LAST NAME: R THROUGH Z

Certificates issued for last names beginning R through Z will expire **December 31, 2023**. The certificate holder must pass the new written private applicator recertification examination before a new certificate is issued.

Our annual Grower Meeting to provide continuing education will be an in person event this year on December 6, 2022, 10am-12pm at the Half Moon Bay Library.

Please see the attached agenda. Contact our department at (650) 363-4700 for information on approved continuing education courses, or to make an appointment to renew your card.

New Requirements for Licensing (implementation Jan. 1, 2024)

Private Applicator Certificate(PAC) Exam: The revised 40 Code of Federal Regulation(CFR) Part 171 has expanded competency standards for PAC. As a result, **all existing PAC holders to retake and pass revised PAC examination, prior to the expiration of their certificates.** Taking this examination is **not** optional, renewing through continuing education (CE) will **not** be an option until an individual has taken and passed the revised PAC (initial) examination that includes revised competency standards.

This will be required at a private applicators (PA) time of renewal and will occur over a three-year period as follows:

Timeline – Compliance



- By January 1, 2024-PAC with last names 'R-Z'
- By January 1, 2025-PAC with last names 'A-H'
- By January 1, 2026-PAC with last names 'I-Q'

Private applicators using fumigants must be certified in fumigant use. CA Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is adopting a **new** certificate option for PAs for Burrowing Vertebrate Pest Control. If you want to use a restricted material fumigant (Aluminum Phosphide) for burrowing vertebrates, the new certification is required beginning on Jan. 1, 2024 to be in compliance. You must take the revised PAC exam to qualify to obtain the new fumigation certification.

Private applicators who intend to use any other type of fumigant product *other than those labeled for the control of burrowing vertebrate pests* must obtain a commercial applicator certificate in the appropriate fumigant use category(ies): 'L' Soil Fumigation and/or category 'M' Non-Soil Fumigation (wine barrel, commodity fumigation, etc.). The new certification is required beginning on Jan. 1, 2024 to be in compliance.

New Private applicator study books are available. Our department has a few copies to lend.

Soft cover from UC Agriculture & Natural Resources \$29:

English: <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=3383>

Spanish: <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=3394>

Digital version- \$10:

English:

https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Shannah_M_Whithaus_Pesticide_Safety_A_Study_Manual?id=fnFbEAAAQBAJ

Spanish:

https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Shannah_M_Whithaus_Seguridad_con_los_pesticida_Un?id=NONmEAAAQBAJ