

U.S. EPA CERTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATORS RULE

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR NEW PROPOSED PROTECTIONS TO THE EXISTING PROTECTIONS

PROPOSED RULE	CURRENT RULE
Certified Applicators	
Strengthen competency standards for private applicators to cover content necessary for safe application of RUPs, similar to commercial applicator core competency plus agricultural pest control	Private applicator competency standards cover 5 general topics
Establish certification categories for certain application methods (soil fumigation, non-soil fumigation, aerial application) for private and commercial applicators	Private applicators: no categories of certification Commercial applicators: no additional certification to use certain application methods
Establish a mandatory 3-year certification period for private and commercial applicators and minimum requirements for recertification programs (continuing education or retest)	No federal requirements for recertification (timeframe or content)
Eliminate special process to allow non-readers to be certified as private applicators	Non-readers can be certified to use restricted use pesticides under a special process administered by the State
Noncertified Applicators Working Under the Direct Supervision of Certified Applicators	
Require pesticide safety training for noncertified applicators using RUPs similar to the training for handlers under the Worker Protection Standard (safety, proper pesticide application techniques, responding to spills, protecting oneself, others and the environment) Exemption from the training requirement for those with valid WPS training and those who have passed the commercial core exam	No requirement for instruction in safety, proper pesticide application techniques, responding to spills, protecting oneself, others and the environment
Require the supervising applicator to provide specific instructions related to application and ensure that the noncertified applicator has a copy of the labeling at the time of application	Supervising applicator must provide general guidance on applying a specific pesticide
Require supervising certified applicator to provide means for immediate communication with noncertified applicator	Supervising applicator must provide noncertified applicator with instructions on how to contact the supervisor in the event he or she is needed
Minimum Age	
Require all persons using restricted use pesticides to be at least 18 years old (private applicators, commercial applicators, noncertified applicators)	No minimum age to use restricted use pesticides
Program Administration	
Require candidates for certification and recertification to present identification	No identification required for persons seeking certification to apply restricted use pesticides

Require certification exams to be closed book and proctored	Certification exams must be written
Require dealers of restricted use pesticides to maintain records of sales	No requirement for dealers of restricted use pesticides to maintain records
Require specific information on the credential (license) issued to a certified applicator	No federal requirements for what information must be included on documents used to verify an applicator's certification status