

This fall, Ohio private pesticide applicators will receive a new license showing a change in categories. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has simplified the categories for private applicators. The change will mean fewer exams for new applicators and many current license holders will have fewer categories for recertification.

Seven Private Categories

The simplification undertaken by ODA has reduced the number of licensing categories from 13 to only seven. Several smaller-use categories have been combined for applicators. For example, growers who raise produce crops will now only need one category for fruit and vegetable crops. The new categories for a private license are:

Category 1: Grain and Cereal Crops

Category 2: Forage Crops & Livestock

Category 3: Fruit & Vegetable Crops

Category 4: Nursery & Forestry Crops

Category 5: Greenhouse Crops

Category 6: Fumigation

Category 7: Specialty Uses

Applicator's Purchase of Specialty Products

Some applicators will have fewer categories on their license, but will still be able to purchase and use the same pesticide products. The specialty categories of seed treatment, stored grain, non-cropland, aquatics, tobacco and wood preservation were consolidated into each of the first six categories. This means an applicator would be able to purchase materials for these applications with at least one category on their license. For example, an applicator with Category 1 (Grain and Cereal Crops) on their license will still be able to purchase products for grain crops but also be able to buy products to treat seed and manage stored grain, non-crop areas and ponds on their farm. Tobacco and wood preservation also were consolidated.

Fumigation is a New Category

This fall, applicators will receive a new license card in the mail regardless of whether they need to renew this year. The card will show their new license numbers, reflecting the old categories they had on their license. All applicators will show Category 6 – Fumigation on their license. Because the wording in the previous law included fumigation in all categories, each applicator will be grandfathered into the new fumigation category. To keep fumigation on their license, they will need to complete the recertification for Category 6 just like other categories on their license. Category 6 is required anytime the applicator is using a fumigant product, regardless of the crop or site.

Recertification and Renewal Schedule

Recertification for the applicators will stay on their current schedule. Only applicators that need

recertification by March 31, 2011 will need to attend recertification training this winter. License renewals are needed to be done only by those who expire in 2011. ODA will issue new license cards to all applicators this year to simplify the transition. To purchase restricted-use products, applicators will need to use their license with the new category numbers.

Category 7 – Specialty Uses

Category 7 represents specialty uses. This category is only for applicators without any of the first six categories on their license. An example would be someone who only does wood preservation on lumber and does not need any crop categories. Their license would reflect this by only having Category 7. If an applicator has any other category on their license, they do not need Category 7. If you have an applicator in your county with Category 7, there is no category recertification requirement. They need to complete the regular recertification: One hour of Core and two hours in any of the other six categories.

More Information

The Pesticide Safety Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> has details about the new categories. The website will also be changed to reflect the new study materials for the updated exams that will be given after November 1, 2010. Information about the category changes is also on the ODA website at: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov>