



## 2024 PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

Private Applicator Certificates (PAC) qualify you as a certified applicator and 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 take and pass a revised exam upon renewal.** 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, 2025**. The certificate holder must pass the new written private applicator recertification examination before a new certificate is issued.

#### **LAST NAME: R THROUGH Z**

Certificates issued for last names beginning **R through Z** will expire **December 31, 2023**. The certificate holder may renew their PAC by presenting documentation for **six hours of DPR approved continuing education before December 31, 2023** or pass the new written private applicator recertification examination before a new certificate is issued.

After January 1, 2024, you must take and pass the new private applicator certification exam. PACs, after passing the new exam, may be renewed by presenting documentation for six hours of DPR approved continuing education hours. Our annual Grower Meeting provides two hours of continuing education annually to meet the renewal requirements. This year it will be an in person event on December 12, 2023, 10am-12:30pm at the Half Moon Bay Library. There is no virtual option this year. 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 Effective January 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:

- After January 1, 2024-PAC with last names 'R-Z'  
Before January 1, 2024, may renew with CE
- By January 1, 2025-PAC with last names 'A-H'
- By January 1, 2026-PAC with last names 'I-Q'

Our department has copies of new Private applicator study book to lend for free. If you would like to order your own copy, you may use the QR code to open the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) licensing page for links to ordering or we have included the locations below:

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

### **Fumigants:**

Private applicators using restricted fumigants (Aluminum or Magnesium Phosphide) must be certified in fumigant use beginning on Jan. 1, 2024.

CA Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is adopting a **new** certificate option for PAs for Burrowing Vertebrate Pest Control. You must pass the new PAC exam and the Burrowing Vertebrate exam to be qualified to use restricted fumigants. There is a free digital study guide that you can download from the DPR website using the QR code or request a link or copy from your district biologist.

Private applicators who intend to use a fumigant product *other than those labeled for the control of burrowing vertebrate pests* must obtain a qualified applicator certificate (QAC) or qualified applicator license (QAL) 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.