

COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR (Landscaper or wanting to apply chemicals to lawns) / NON- COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR (Municipality/government) LICENSES:

Commercial - If you apply restricted use pesticides, or if you apply any pesticide in Categories 3, 5, 7a, 7b, or 8 to another person's property as part of your job and/or for compensation, you are a Commercial Applicator and must be licensed in the state of South Carolina.

Non-commercial - Pesticide applicators who are employed by a Government agency (state, county, federal, local municipality, need to apply for a non-commercial applicators license.

How do I get a commercial pesticide license in South Carolina? *There are 2 ways to obtain a commercial license in SC:*

- A.) Take [SC Exams](#), then complete the application process. or
- B.) [Reciprocate](#) on your current pesticide license from a state in which SC has a reciprocal agreement.

For Option A: Taking SC exams?

You will need to take the [Core and Category exams](#). To register to take the exams, you will need to visit our [Exam Information](#) page. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Claflin at dprexams@clemson.edu. If needed, study material can be ordered through PSA Publications at [Clemson's Marketplace](#).

Once exams have been completed and **passed**, the required forms for a commercial pesticide license will be mailed *or emailed* to the examinee. To apply for a commercial license, you will need to return the completed forms with your payment to our licensing department.

EXAM FEES: The core exam is \$75 and each category exam is \$50

To apply for a commercial license you will need to complete and return the following items:

1. Commercial/Non-commercial Pesticide License Application

2. **Evidence of Financial Responsibility Form**

-This form is to be completed by the insurance company and is **REQUIRED** for all new applicators

3. Licensing Fee

-In instances where more than one commercial applicator works for a commercial firm or organization, and they all work out of the same location, one individual is certified for a \$50 fee and the other individuals may be certified for \$10 per category up to a maximum of \$50 per individual. A separate application and required forms must be submitted for each applicator.

For Option B: Reciprocating from another state?

To obtain a reciprocal commercial pesticide license, you must have a current license from one of the states in which South Carolina has a **reciprocal agreement** with and complete the following forms to apply for a reciprocal license.

To apply for a reciprocal license you will need to complete and return the following items:

1. **Reciprocal License Application**

2. **Evidence of Financial Responsibility form**

-This form is to be completed by the insurance company and is **REQUIRED** for all new applicators

3. **Affidavit**

4. Copy of current pesticide license from the state in which you are reciprocating from

5. Licensing fee

-In instances where more than one commercial applicator works for a commercial firm or organization, and they all work out of the same location, one individual is certified for a \$50 fee and the other individuals may be certified for \$10 per category up to a maximum of \$50 per individual. A separate application and required forms must be submitted for each applicator.



(Please note that if you have taken category 7A and are applying for a 7A – ***Structural Pest Control Business license*** or ***applying to be a DCA***, there are additional forms you will need that can be found on our [business licensing page](#).

For commercial and/or business licensing questions not found on this website, please email dprca@clemson.edu

Go here to register for an online (**not truly online its at a testing center**) exam <https://www.metrosignup.com/SouthCarolina/LetsGo.asp?99844833922834375574483929000192283347485484393939> You can also email DPR at DPRexams@clemson.edu or DPR Commercial Applicators dprca@clemson.edu

Here is the online / on-demand prep course (**NOT REQUIRED, but does help**)

<https://cpe.clemson.edu/browse/extension/horticulture/commercial-pesticide-applicator-exam-prep>

If you need to order books go here or contact your local extension office.

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=168&CATID=353&SINGLESTORE=true

South Carolina Certification Categories

Category 1: Agricultural Pest Control

Plant: This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in producing agricultural crops, including but not limited to: tobacco, peanuts, cotton, feed grains, soybeans and forage, small fruits, vegetables, tree fruits and nuts, as well as on grass lands and noncrop agricultural lands.

Animal: This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides on animals, including, but not limited to: beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, poultry, and to places on or in which animals are confined.

Stored Grain Pest Control: This category is for applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides to treat stored grain, e.g. grain fumigation.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Soil Fumigation: This category

Category 2: Forest Pest Control - This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in forests, forest nurseries, and forest seed producing areas.

Category 3: Ornamental and Turf Pest Control - This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides to control pests in maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, and turf. Licensing is mandatory in this category.

Category 4: Seed Treatment - This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides on seeds.

Category 5: Aquatic Pest Control - This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of any pesticides purposefully applied to standing or running water, excluding applicators engaged in public health related activities included in Category 8. Licensing is mandatory in this category.

Category 6: Right-of-Way Pest Control - This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides in the maintenance of public roads, electric power lines, pipelines, railway rights-of-way, or other similar areas.

Category 7A: Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health-Related Pest Control - This category includes applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in, on, or around food-handling establishments, human dwellings, institutions, such as schools and hospitals, industrial establishments, including warehouses and grain elevators, and any other structures and adjacent areas, public or private, and for the protection of stored, processed or manufactured products or structures. Licensing is mandatory in this category.

Special note for Category 7A applicators: Except under very limited circumstances, all 7A applicators must be associated with a Business License. Contact our main office at 864.646.2150 for more information.

Category 7B: Fumigation - This category includes individuals using or supervising the use of a restricted use fumigant for pest control.

Category 8: Public Health Pest Control - This category includes state or federal employees or other individuals using or supervising the use of pesticides in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance. Licensing is mandatory in this category.

Category 9: Regulatory Pest Control - This category includes state, federal, or other governmental employees who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides in the control of regulated pests.

Category 10: Demonstration and Research Pest Control - This category includes (1) individuals who demonstrate to the public proper use techniques for applying restricted use pesticides or supervise such demonstration, and (2) persons conducting field research with restricted use pesticides. Included in the first group are such persons as Extension specialists, county agents, commercial representatives demonstrating pesticide products, and individuals demonstrating methods used in public programs. The second group includes state and federal employees, commercial representatives, and other persons conducting field research on or using restricted use pesticides.

Category 11: Aerial Applicator - This category includes individuals who apply restricted use pesticides using any type of aircraft.

Category 12A: Wood Preservation - This category includes individuals who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides on wood as a preservative.

Category 12B: Anti-Fouling Paints - This category includes individuals who use or supervise the use of paints containing tributyltin.

Category 12C: Small Animal Pest Control - This category includes individuals who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides as pet groomers, etc.

Category 12D: Sewer Line Pest Control - This category includes individuals who use or supervise the use of metal sodium to treat sewer lines.

Category 12E: Glyphosate Limited Herbicide Only - This category includes individuals who only use glyphosate and no other pesticides.

Category Specific CEU Requirements

Category-Specific CEU Requirements for the 1/1/2019-12/31/23 Commercial Recertification Block

The summary below reflects the change (to be implemented in January, 2014) in required continuing certification units (CEU). Possible combinations of CEUs that a commercial pesticide applicator may have are followed by the number of category-specific units required, and then by the total that will be required to renew at the end of the 1/1/2019-12/31/23 Recertification Block. Categories 1,2,4,6,9,10, and 11 have no requirement for category-specific CEUs.

Go here to check credits and see opportunities to earn credits:

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide-regulation/recertification/index.html>

Commercial Category Held	Category-Specific CCUs Required	Total Required
1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11 (or any combination of these)	0	10
3 and any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	3	10
5 and any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	3	10
7A and any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	12	20
7B and any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	3	10
8 and any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	3	10
3, or 5, or 7B, or 8 only	3	10
7A only	12	20
Combination of any two (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone, or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	6	10
Combination of any three (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone, or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	9	10
Combination of all four (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone, or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	12	12
Combination of 7A and any one (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone, or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	15	20
Combination of 7A and any two (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone,	18	20

or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)

Combination of 7A and any three (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone, or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	21	21
--	----	----

Combination of 7A and all four (3, 5, 7B, 8) alone, or with any combination of (1,2,4,6,9,10,11)	24	24
---	----	----

RECERTIFICATION EXAMS (those who have 0 credits and can't get credits by the end of the block).

You have to pass the Recertification exams before Dec 31, 2023. However, it is strongly recommended that you take and pass the recert exams as soon as possible. We will mail out the 2024 renewal notices to eligible applicators to renew their licenses in October. If you have not taken and passed the recertification exams by this date, you will not receive a printed Renewal notice. With the end of the year rush, holidays and Clemson University offices closing, you run the risk of not being able to renew if you wait until the last minute to attempt to take the recert exams in late Nov or Dec. (For example, if you should not pass the first time and have to retake one or both recert exams. if you decide to take the exams at a testing center, most of them are located at technical colleges across the state and close for the holidays. As well, If you choose to take your exams online remotely, there is a live proctor that participates in the remote session – there may be limited availability of proctors toward the end of the year as well.) Once you have submitted your application to take the Recert Exams through Metro Institute and been approved. You will be able to log in to the Metro website to schedule the date/time for your exams on a day that suits your schedule. Some testing locations have limited availability, therefore another reason not to delay.

If you have not earned your required recertification credits and/or renewed by the end of the year (Dec 21, 2023), your license will be revoked and you will be required to retake the full exams and reapply for the license. Contact Karen Claflin for more details dprexams@clemson.edu.

**ANY QUESTIONS THAT ARE NOT ANSWERABLE IN THIS DOCUMENT
NEED TO BE SENT TO: dprca@clemson.edu**

Information for SC Private Applicators (Farmers / Ranchers, Landowners...not being paid to come out and spray pesticides)

How do I become licensed?

1- Take SC private applicator training and exam

To be certified as a private applicator, you must be at least 18 years-old, complete the proper training and pass an exam. Pay the pro-rated portion of the fee for the remainder of the five-year certification block in which the license is being issued.

2 - Have a valid SC commercial, non-commercial, or dealer license

If you have a SC commercial, non-commercial or dealer license, you may obtain a private applicator's license by submitting the proper application form and paying the pro-rated portion of the fee for the remainder of the five-year certification block in which the license is being issued. No additional training or exams are required.

3 - Reciprocate from another state

If you have a private pesticide applicator license in any other US state or territory, you may apply for a private applicator's license in South Carolina. You must reside out of the state of SC to qualify for this method of licensing.

To apply for a private reciprocal license, you will need to complete and return the following items:

- [Reciprocal Private License Application](#)
- [Affidavit Form](#)
- Provide a copy of your current pesticide license from the state in which you are reciprocating from
- Private license fee is \$6.00 if obtain in 2022, \$4 if obtain in 2023, and \$2 if obtain in 2024.. You may pay the license fee [online](#) or mail a check/money order payable to: Clemson University to the address listed on the application. If you pay online, you may email your application and other required forms to Tammy Henderson at dprpa@clemson.edu.

4 - Be a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA)

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.



If you are a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), you may receive a SC private applicator license based on this certification. Contact Tammy Henderson at dprpa@clermson.edu for further details.

How do I earn recertification credits?

Private applicator licenses are issued in five-year blocks that end in 2019, 2024, 2029, etc. Licensing fees are pro-rated and expire at the end of the block in which they are issued. You must complete five Continuing Certification Units (CCUs) of training during each five-year block.

How do I verify Continuing Certification Units (CCUs)?

Click [here](#) for the status of CCUs for the current five-year block.

Go here to check credits and see opportunities to earn credits:

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide-regulation/recertification/index.html>

GENERAL LICENSE QUESTIONS: Katie C Moore kcrouch@clermson.edu
Tammy Henderson at dprpa@clermson.edu.

TO TAKE THE EXAM:

OPTION 1: Check with local county office to find a class / exam in their area.

OPTION 2: Virtual Training and Online Exam

The Virtual Initial Private Pesticide Applicator Training/Exam is available on the 1st and 3rd Mondays and their respective weeks each month. The practice test must be taken by 3:00 PM on Thursday and the exam is offered 9-3 on Fridays. Trainees have one hour to complete the exam after starting it. The registration link only works during weeks the course is open.

TO REGISTER: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/pest-ed/>

QUESTIONS REGARDING VIRTUAL TRAINING: Katie C Moore
kcrouch@clermson.edu

**ANY QUESTIONS THAT ARE NOT ANSWERABLE IN THIS DOCUMENT
NEED TO BE SENT TO:**

Katie C Moore kcrouch@clermson.edu

Or, Tammy Henderson at dprpa@clermson.edu.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.