

# INDIANA COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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## INTRODUCTION

The Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Act was signed into law in April, 1975. This law provides the necessary legislation to assure the effective and safe use of pesticides in protecting the public, agriculture and the environment. The beneficial use of pesticides in our daily lives has brought an increasing awareness of the need for better understanding of these pesticides, proper selection and the training necessary to assure proper applications.

## FEDERAL LAW

Congress passed far-reaching amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in 1972 and 1975. FIFRA as amended, administered by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), authorizes EPA to classify all pesticides into general and restricted use classifications; this classification process is to be completed by October 21, 1977. Those pesticides classified as having restricted uses may have undesirable health or environmental effects if not applied by competent persons. Restricted use pesticides will, therefore, be limited to applicators who are trained and certified as being knowledgeable in the safe application of these pesticides, or to competent persons working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. General use pesticides will be those determined by EPA to be safe for application by the public without special training, provided label instructions are closely followed.

## STATE LAW

In Indiana anyone applying *any* pesticide for hire, including pesticides classified for restricted use, is required to be licensed either as an operator (owner or manager of a pesticide application business) or as an applicator

(employee of a business). The certification and licensing deadline for this group was *October 21, 1976*. The license allows you to operate your business and is required annually, while your certification of competency is valid for three years. The owner or manager of the business must be licensed but can exercise his option on whether he will become certified, usually depending on whether he becomes personally involved in using or supervising the use of pesticides. If he is not certified, he must have a certified employee in his hire. How many should be certified depends upon the size and nature of the business and how many persons are necessary to maintain and direct supervision by certified applicators at all times when pesticides are being applied.

Commercial applicators (not-for-hire) applying restricted use pesticides on their institution, business or agency property as a regular part of the organizational duties are required to be licensed and certified. This group will not engage in any services outside of those provided for their employer and will not provide pesticide services for hire. As the certification of the "not-for-hire" commercial applicator is related to the EPA classification of restricted use pesticides which will become effective on October 21, 1977, his certification is not required until then.

## TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The training and certification of these applicators is the responsibility of each state according to its own needs, but must meet minimum federal certification standards. In concurrence with this office, the Indiana Cooperative Extension Service is responsible for organizing and conducting the training programs. Although attendance at a training session is not a requirement for certification, it is recommended since the examination will cover materials presented at the training session. The Office of the State Chemist will administer the examinations and certify and license those meeting the requirements of the law.