



CTAG

Certification & Training Assessment Group – National Partnerships for Safe & Effective Pesticide Management through Education, Training & Competency Assessment

2003 Update

Who We Are

The Certification & Training Assessment Group (CTAG) is a consortium of professionals to promote the safe and effective use of pesticides through education, testing and licensing, and enforcement. CTAG was formed in 1997 to undertake an in-depth study of the pesticide applicator certification and training (C&T) program. The mission of CTAG is to facilitate change in the national pesticide applicator certification and training program.

How We Operate

CTAG is managed by a Board whose members serve overlapping two and three year terms. The Board is directed by two co-chairs and a vice chair. Under the CTAG charter, the Board will determine the current status and future direction of CTAG, create and coordinate workgroups, provide updates on accomplishments, and maintain a communications network with partners.

Three workgroups have been formed to focus activities on specific projects. The charge of the first workgroup is to develop a standardized electronic template, based on FIFRA and the current 40 CFR regulations, for use in updating C&T Plans. Such a template will both simplify and standardize the updating and review process for the States, Tribes and EPA Regional Offices. The second workgroup is tasked with determining how best to fold the pesticide handler portion of the Worker Protection Standard program into the current C&T program, as well as to provide EPA with a plan for a comprehensive pesticide safety program, for all persons who sell, mix, load, apply or recommend the use of pesticides. The program will provide a framework for those involved to demonstrate competency, mitigate risk and improve pesticide security through appropriate education, training and testing. The third workgroup was formed to develop a pesticide product classification system which tiers the type of user (including occupational and non-occupational users), product characteristics (including level of toxicity or hazard and an assessment of security risk), the level of pesticide education and safety training appropriate or required, certification or licensing requirements; application site characteristics, and engineering or manufacturing controls. The new system will replace the current pesticide product classification system which is overly broad (based on RUP vs. Non-RUP), difficult to regulate, and nearly impossible to establish good certification and training requirements.

What We Do

- To provide a road map for change, CTAG issued a January 1999 draft report entitled "Pesticide Safety for the 21st Century — The Findings and Proposals of the Certification & Training Assessment Group" which was distributed for stakeholder review and comment. In this report, CTAG proposed major changes to the national C&T program including changes to FIFRA, the 40 CFR 171 regulations, EPA and USDA activities, and activities in conjunction with states, tribes and territories.
- A CTAG Technical Review Committee provided their evaluation of commercially available Certification Exam Development Software to the states, tribes and territories.
- CTAG members are working with EPA and Canada's PMRA to develop a validated, professionally developed national pesticide applicator exam of core knowledge principles for all first time candidates to become pesticide applicators, and a companion national core manual.

- The web site for resource sharing among educators and regulators developed in 2001 (<http://pep.wsu.edu/psp>) has continued to grow. The web site is a sharing platform for educators and regulators which lists materials developed or being drafted, format, dates and contact information.
- Pesticide Regulatory Education Programs (PREP) are courses designed to provide practical, up-to-date information on technical, policy and management related issues for state, tribal, territorial and federal partners. The goals of this national program are to strengthen partner capabilities to address current and evolving issues and continue to improve cooperation among partners. In April 2002, a PREP course was conducted which focused on CTAG issues and activities.
- The CTAG Workgroup C&T Plans is nearing completion of a new C&T plan electronic reporting template which will facilitate the collection, maintenance and review of required plan components, applicator number reporting requirements, reciprocity agreements and access to additional program information.
- The CTAG Workgroup on Pesticide Safety is now drafting proposals to integrate the Worker Protection Standard program into the C&T program and on measures that could be taken throughout the lifetime of a pesticide product and with pesticide applicators that would increase security of pesticides and application equipment.
- The CTAG Workgroup on Tiered Classification is now drafting proposals for a new system of classifying pesticides and certifying pesticide applicators, dealers, consultants and trained pesticide handlers; and new certification categories.

Learn More About CTAG

For more information, including Board members, meeting schedules and a document archive, refer to the CTAG web page (<http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag>).

Current CTAG Board Members

- Kevin Keaney, EPA - OPP (Co-Chair)
- Gina Davis, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture (Co-Chair)
- Carol Ramsay, Washington State University (Vice-Chair)
- Jeanne Heying, EPA - OPP
- Richard Pont, EPA - OPP
- Al Muench, EPA Assistant
- Win Hock, AAPSE President
- Monte Johnson, USDA CSREES
- Jack Peterson, Arizona Dept. of Agriculture
- Carl Martin, Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission
- Debbie Danford, Texas Dept. of Agriculture
- Donnie Dippel, AAPCO President, Texas Dept. of Agriculture
- Pat O'Connor-Marer, University of California
- Bill Tozer, Armed Forces Pest Management Board
- Elaine Wilson, Tribal Pesticide Program Council
- Jeaneanne Gettle, EPA Region 4

Please feel free to contact any board member with inquiries or suggestions. Go to <http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/board.html> and click on a Board member's name for the member's e-mail address.

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