



CTAG

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

CTAG Update AAPCO Board of Directors March 7, 2004

I. Changes to the CTAG Board –

Effective March 31, 2004:

- Carol Ramsay (Washington State University) will become CTAG Co-Chair.
- Carl Martin (Arizona Structural Pest Control Board) will become CTAG Vice-Chair.
- Gina Davis (Michigan Department of Agriculture) will remain on the Board as Past Co-Chair.
- New Board Members – Kathy Dictor (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) and Andrew Thostenson (North Dakota State University).

AAPCO Representation:

- Mary Ellen Setting has stepped down.
- CTAG Executive Committee will recommend to the CTAG Board that Jack Peterson be identified as the AAPCO representative and that a State Lead Agency replacement be sought for Mary Ellen.

II. State Plan Template -

The CTAG State Plan Workgroup has developed a web-based template system that will allow States/Tribes to generate their State/Tribal Certification & Training plans in a uniform format. This template integrates the requirements of 40 CFR part 171.7 (Submission and approval of State Plans for certification of commercial and private applicators of restricted use pesticides) and Form 5700 33H (annual C&T reporting)

- Programming is essentially completed.
- Beta-tested by several states.
- Template is currently hosted on a WSU server. Plans are to migrate it to an EPA server. Working with EPA technology folks at this time.
- Rollout strategy to be discussed this week.
- Included in the draft FY 2005-2007 Pesticide Cooperative Agreement guidance.

III. Issue Papers Presented to POM and SFIREG–

CTAG has developed several issue papers:

- 50/50 Match – Proposes a change in FIFRA to replace the 50/50 C&T match requirement with the traditional 85/15 match used in other FIFRA programs. This issue was accepted by POM (October 2002) with a low priority ranking.

- Requiring Monitored, Written, Closed-book Exams – Seeks to improve the professionalism of all certified applicators by requiring states to use monitored, written, closed-book exams for certification of both private and commercial applicators. This issue paper was initially submitted to POM in October 2002 and then resubmitted (with clarifications) in October 2003. Accepted by SFIREG in December 2003.
- Minimum Age Requirement for Certification – Recommends that EPA implement a minimum age requirement for certification as a requirement for approval of state plans. Originally submitted and accepted by POM and SFIREG (April 2002 and June 2002), as 18 for commercial applicators, 16 for private applicators. Because of concerns raised relative to taking enforcement actions against minors the issue paper was resubmitted in 2003 recommending 18 years of age for both commercial and private. This issue remains under review at this time.
- Positive Identification for RUP Purchase - Recommends that EPA develop guidelines and implement requirements for positive identification of all private and commercial applicators making face to face purchases of restricted use pesticides. (This issue paper does not address telephone and Internet sales of pesticides). Accepted by POM and SFIREG in 2003.

IV. In Progress –

The following activities are in process:

- Positive Identification for Exams and Training purposes – Guidance for verifying applicator identity during exam and training sessions.
- Remote testing – Exploring the advantages and disadvantages of remote testing.
- Exam administration and security – Manual is being developed that will provide guidance to states relative to exam administration and security.
- WPS integration – Concept proposes to integrate the pesticide handler training requirements of the Worker Protection Standard into the C&T program.
- Tiered Classification - Concept proposes developing a tiered classification system for pesticides that relates the hazard of the pesticide to training. Short and long term proposals were identified and are being reviewed at this time.
- PSEP Long-term funding – Workgroup will be formed to develop a process for distributing Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) funds. This workgroup will look at the formula and the process for distributing funds and identify conditions for maintaining the accountability of funds.
- National Pesticide Applicator Core manual and exam.

V. Future Efforts ???

- Recertification criteria and policies.
- Reciprocity
- National aerial applicator exam/manual