Washington State Department of Agriculture

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
Pesticide/Pest Inspector Licensing

1111 Washington St SE
PO Box 42560 Olympia WA 98504-2560
Website: agr.wa.gov

Phone: 1-877-301-4555
Fax: 1-360-902-2093
Email: license@agr.wa.gov

This fact sheet contains information about the licensing program administered by WSDA. For further information, visit our website at http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/Licensing.aspx.

Licensing

Washington State's pesticide licensing program includes many license types and category exams. The license needed to perform WDO inspections or legally apply, distribute or consult on the use of pesticides in Washington depends on who your employer is and/or what type of pest control work you will be performing. To determine what license type and exams you need, see the following pages in this fact sheet. All licensees must complete recertification requirements every 5 years. You must be licensed in all categories in which you will be working.

Washington State University (WSU) Study Manuals and Pre-License Training

Study manuals may be purchased from WSU Extension. To order, go to http://pep.wsu.edu/studymaterials or call the WSU Bulletin Office at (800) 723-1763. Pre-license training courses are offered statewide, January through April, by the WSU Urban IPM and Pesticide Education Program. Information on these courses is available by calling (509) 335-2830, or by going to the WSU website at http://pep.wsu.edu/.

Testing

Testing is conducted by WSDA every Tuesday at our Olympia and Yakima offices at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. sharp.
In addition, testing is conducted by field staff at 12:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Everett	Once a month (call for specific date)	WSU Extension Office, 600 128th St. SE
Spokane	First Wednesday of each month	WSDA Office, 222 N. Havana
E. Wenatchee	Third Thursday of every other month (Jan-Nov)	WSDA Office, 270 9th St NE, Suite 204
Moses Lake	Third Tuesday each month	Grant Co. Fire District #5 Training Center
Longview	Variable schedule (call for specific date/time)	Lower Columbia College, 1600 Maple St

Directions for all sites are available at http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/Licensing.aspx#TakingExams.
Note: WSDA reserves the right to alter this schedule and testing locations when necessary.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling WSDA at (877) 301-4555.
Please note: Several WSU Cooperative Extension offices administer the Private Applicator exam upon request. Contact WSDA or your local extension office for further information or view a list of the offices on-line at the following webpage: http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/ExtensionOffices.pdf.

Testing Policies:

- Cell phones prohibited.
- Picture identification required.
- A one-time/year license fee and $25 testing fee is due at the time of testing. There is a **$25 fee** each time you test.
- Payment must be check or cashier's check/money order (payable to WSDA).
- We DO NOT accept cash, credit or debit cards.
- Must arrive on time (reservation may be voided if late).
- To become licensed, individuals must receive a passing score of 70% on all required exams.
- **Test results are not released until all fees are paid.** After a second, third, or fourth failure in a calendar year, there is a mandatory 14-day waiting period between exam retakes. After the fifth and subsequent failures, you must wait 60 days before retesting. If an exam is revised or developed, all affected licensees may be required to pass the new exam.

Persons of disability should notify WSDA in advance at (877) 301-4555 [TTY Relay at (800) 833-6388] if accommodation is necessary.

WSDA LICENSE TYPES

License Type/Fee	Definitions
Commercial Applicator Annual license Fee: $215.00 [2, 5]	A person engaged in the business of applying pesticides to the land or property of another. This land can either be publicly or privately owned. There are further requirements, such as proof of financial coverage. Go to http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/CaSpiInfo.aspx for further information.
Commercial Operator Annual license Fee: $67.00	A person employed by a WSDA-licensed Commercial Applicator to apply pesticides to the land or property of another. This property can either be publicly or privately owned.
Commercial Pest Control Consultant [3] Annual license Fee: $60.00	A person who sells or offers pesticides for sale at other than the licensed pesticide dealer outlet from which they are employed. In addition, Commercial Consultants may offer or supply technical advice or make recommendations to the users of non-home and garden pesticides. **Licensed and employed Commercial Applicators and Commercial Operators may act as Commercial Consultants without acquiring the consultant's license.**
Dealer Manager [3] Annual license Fee: $33.00	A person who supervises the distribution of any **non**-home and garden pesticide from a licensed pesticide dealer outlet. Note: A Dealer Manager must be on site whenever non-home and garden pesticides are distributed.
Demonstration & Research Applicator Annual license Fee: $33.00	A person who applies or supervises the use of any experimental or restricted use pesticide to small experimental plots at no charge. (Public employees performing research applications fall under the licensing requirements of the Public Operator.)
Private Applicator Annual license Fee: $33.00 [4]	Person who applies or supervises the application of a restricted use pesticide on land owned or rented by him or his employer for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity.
-Limited Private Applicator Fee: $33.00 [4] **-Rancher Private Applicator** Fee: $100.00 [4] 5-year licenses	Both licenses allow holder to apply or supervise the use of restricted use **herbicides** on non-production ag land (pastures, rangeland, areas around farm buildings) and in mixed rangeland-timber areas to control weeds designated for mandatory control. **Rancher Private Applicators** may also apply herbicides and rodenticides to limited production ag land where hay and grain are grown primarily for on-farm use. Neither license allows the use of restricted use insecticides, fungicides or aquatic herbicides. **Both are valid in Eastern Washington only.**
Private Commercial Applicator Annual license Fee: $33.00	A person who applies or supervises the use of a restricted use pesticide on land, property or materials owned or rented by him or his employer for purposes other than the production of an agricultural commodity. See Commercial Applicator definition if applying to land, property or materials owned by another person other than employer.
Public Operator Annual license Fee: $33.00	A person who, while acting as an employee of a governmental agency, applies restricted use pesticides by any means or any pesticide by power equipment on public or private property. Public Operators may act as Public Consultants. (Public Operators licensed only in the Public Health category are exempt from the fee.)
Public Pest Control Consultant [3] Annual license Fee: $33.00	A person who, while acting as an employee of a governmental agency, offers or supplies technical advice, or makes recommendations to the users of non-home and garden pesticides. Public Consultants may not act as Public Operators without the operator license.
Structural Pest Inspector Annual license Fee: $60.00 [1, 5]	A person who inspects a structure for wood destroying organisms, their damage or conditions conducive to their development. Wood destroying organisms include carpenter ants, termites, wood infesting beetles and wood rot (fungus). See additional license requirements on our website at (http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/CaSpiInfo.aspx). Note: Home Inspectors require licensing with DOL, http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/homeinspectors.

1 *The fee is not required if applicant **holds and is working under the authority of** a current Commercial Applicator, Commercial Operator, Private Commercial, Commercial Consultant, Demo & Research or Public Consultant license.*
2 *Includes licensing of one spray apparatus. There is a $27 fee for each additional apparatus.*
3 *May not use or supervise the use of a restricted use pesticide or commercially apply any pesticide.*
4 *No license fee required if applicant pays for another WSDA pesticide license.*
5 *The company must have a business license from Dept. of Revenue's Business Licensing Service (http://bls.dor.wa.gov/ or 1-800-451-7985).*

Pesticide and SPI License Exam Categories

Note: Pesticide is a general term for products that control all kinds of pests including weeds, insects, rodents, diseases, etc.

STAND-ALONE EXAMS (Do Not Need to Take Laws and Safety Exam)

Dealer Manager: Exam fulfills the requirements for a Dealer Manager license and qualifies the licensee to act as a Dealer Manager for a licensed pesticide dealer outlet.

Private Applicator (available in English and Spanish): This person uses or supervises the use of restricted use pesticides for the production of any agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by them or their employer. The Aquatic category is required if applying a pesticide to water which moves off the property. Soil Fumigation RMM may also be added, if applicable.

Limited Private Applicator: Use or supervision of restricted use herbicides on non-production agricultural land. May also use herbicides in timber areas to control weeds designated for mandatory control. **May not use restricted use insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides or any aquatic herbicide. Note: Valid in Eastern Washington only.**

Rancher Private Applicator: Use or supervision of restricted use herbicides and rodenticides on non-production agricultural land and on limited production ag land where hay and grain are grown for primarily personal use. May also use herbicides in timber areas to control weeds designated for mandatory control. **May not use restricted use insecticides, fungicides or any aquatic herbicide. Valid in Eastern Washington only.**

Structural Pest Inspector: May perform specific wood destroying organism (WDO) inspections; required for complete WDO inspections.** Passage of two exams is required to qualify for the SPI category. There is a 100-question general knowledge exam and a 50-question practical exam. Although WSDA does provide magnifying lenses for the practical exam, you are encouraged to bring your own high quality hand lens.

* Specific WDO inspections – for the purpose of identifying or verifying evidence of an infestation of WDOs prior to pest management activities.
** Complete WDO inspections - for the purpose of determining evidence of infestation, damage, or conducive conditions as part of the transfer, exchange, or refinancing of any structure in Washington State.

Aquatic Antifouling: Use of antifouling paints to control fouling organisms on the bottom of marine vessels. Study material is available at http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/AquaticAntifoulingFactSheet.pdf or by contacting WSDA at (877) 301-4555. Laws and Safety manual is also required, see previous link for specific sections you need to study.

Stump Treatment: The very limited use of herbicides on cut stumps only to control resprouting. Does not include basal applications.
Note: Stump Treatment applications may also be made by those with Rights of Way or Ornamental Weed endorsements.
Study Information: Use the Turf & Ornamental study manual for this exam. Only study the following sections: Under "Herbicide Application Principles," only study sections on "Hand Sprayers" and "Sprayer Nozzles." Under "Herbicide Application" section, study material beginning with "Sprayer Delivery Rate." Study the Laws and Safety study manual as well.

-----For all other license applicants, you will need to pass Laws and Safety plus applicable endorsements-----

LAWS AND SAFETY (available in English and Spanish): This exam is required for all licenses **except** the Dealer Manager, Structural Pest Inspector, Private Applicator, Limited Private Applicator and Rancher Private Applicator. Must also pass at least one category exam to qualify for a license. Material is integrated into Stump Treatment and Aquatic Antifouling exams.

CATEGORY EXAMS

Agricultural Insect & Disease Control: The control of insects and diseases in agricultural crops including forest environments. *This category does not cover the application of soil fumigants. Refer to the Soil Fumigation category.*

Agricultural Weed (available in English and Spanish): The control of weeds in all agricultural crops including forest environments. *This category does not cover the application of soil fumigants. Refer to the Soil Fumigation category.*

Aquatic Pest Control: The control of aquatic pests (fish, insects and weeds) of water areas including but not limited to canals, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, marshes and water supply pipelines. Please note: Aquatic pesticide applications may require a permit through the Department of Ecology. Go to http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/ for further information.

Aquatic Pest Control - Irrigation Districts: Limited to the control of aquatic weeds in irrigation district water delivery systems. Pests include but are not limited to moss, algae, cattails, pondweeds and other emersed and submersed aquatic weeds.

Cooling Tower: Control of algae, bacteria, etc. in cooling towers and other similar water systems. No study materials required, all exam questions are based off of a fictitious label included in the exam.

Fumigant: The use of fumigants (such as methyl bromide and aluminum phosphide) on stored commodities. Study the chapter "Controlling Pest Infestations" in the Stored Grain Pest Control study manual (EM001).

Interior Plantscaping: The control of insects and diseases in interior plantscapes.

Livestock: The control of external and internal pests of animals, with the exception of viruses, in livestock and livestock premises.

Ornamental Insect & Disease Control: The control of insects and diseases in ornamental, turf and rights-of-way situations including but not limited to golf courses, parks, schools, lawns, yards, gardens, greenhouses, hospitals and rest homes. This includes but is not limited to the use of insecticides, miticides, fungicides, bactericides, molluscicides and nematocides. *This category does not include perimeter treatments around structures for spiders. The PCO General exam is required for these applications.*

PCO General: The control of insects, spiders, birds, rodents and animal pests, including but not limited to: residences, public buildings and grounds, commercial buildings and grounds, disposal sites, animal feed lots and farmsteads, including buildings and transportation equipment. *This category does not include the control of ornamental pests, structurally destructive pests, and the inspection of properties for real estate transactions.* Note: Businesses that amend structures to exclude pest animals may need a Specialty Contractor's license from Department of Labor & Industries (see http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Contractors/HowReg/).

PCO Structural: The control of those pests that attack structural material, including but not limited to fungus, termites, carpenter ants and wood-boring beetles. May perform specific* wood destroying organism inspections.(see page 3 for definition of specific inspection)

Pest Animal Control: The control of pest animals in agricultural situations. Trapping animals does not require a pesticide license but may require a permit from the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Contact WDFW's Problem Wildlife Program at (360) 902-2515.

Post-Harvest Treatment of Fruits & Vegetables: Use of pesticides to control organisms such as fungus and diseases in stored fruits and vegetables. No study materials required, all exam questions are based off of a fictitious labels included in the exam.

Public Health Control: This category allows for the use of pesticides in public health situations such as, but not limited to, mosquito control, rodent control and insect control in situations of medical and public health importance.

Rights-of-Way Weed (available in English and Spanish): The control of weeds on but not limited to: rights-of-way locations such as city, county, state and federal roads and/or highways, railroads, power lines, and irrigation ditches; and, to industrial sites such as airports, industrial parks and large parking areas. *This category does not include the application of pesticides into water. Refer to the Aquatic Pest Control category.*

Seed Treatment: The application of pesticides to seeds to control destructive insects and diseases.

Sewer Root Control- Control of roots in sewers. Study material for the Sewer Root Control exam is available at http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/SewerRootCtrlManual.pdf or by contacting WSDA toll free at (877) 301-4555.

Soil Fumigation RMM: Use of soil-applied fumigant on agricultural crops and non-crop land to control pests including weeds, insects and diseases. This category addresses risk mitigation measures on soil fumigant labels as required by EPA.

Sprout Inhibitor: Use of a pesticide to control sprouting in stored potatoes.

Stored Grain: The use of pesticides (including fumigants and rodenticides) in grain storing facilities, railcars, etc.

Structural & Turf Demossing: Limited to the control of moss on structures and turf.

Sulfur Dioxide Fumigation: Use of sulfur dioxide gas to fumigate wine barrels and corks. No study materials required, all exam questions are based off of a fictitious label included in the exam.

Turf and Ornamental Weed (available in English and Spanish): The control of weeds (and moss) in all ornamental and turf situations, which includes but is not limited to golf courses, parks, schools, lawns, yards, gardens, and hospitals. *There is a Stump Treatment exam for those doing ONLY stump treatment applications.*

Wood Treatment (available in English and Spanish): Use of wood preservatives for the control of wood damaging pests.

EXAM SUBSTITUTIONS

EXAM	PERMITTED SUBSTITUTION(S)
Private Applicator.....	Laws & Safety plus one of the following: Ag Weed, Ag Insect & Disease or Soil Fumigation RMM
Limited Private Applicator.....	Private Applicator or permitted Private Applicator substitution (see above)
Rancher Private Applicator.....	Private Applicator or permitted Private Applicator substitution and Pest Animal Control
Laws & Safety.....	Dealer Manager or Private Applicator

Note: To obtain one of these licenses using substituted exams, you must submit a completed application and, if applicable, the license fee (refer to page 2).