

The mission of the Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division is to protect human health and the environment by ensuring the proper labeling, distribution, storage, use, application and disposal of pesticides, and through enforcement of all pesticide laws. Certified applicators competent to use pesticides safely are the foundation of a sound pesticide regulatory program. In keeping with our mission, we are requiring that **ALL LOUISIANA CERTIFIED COMMERCIAL AND STRUCTURAL APPLICATORS** participate in proficiency training and pass an exam administered after a training session during 2017.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Who will be required to complete the training and pass the exam?

All commercial applicators, salespersons, ag consultants, structural licensees and technicians.

2. What is the time frame on completion of the proficiency training and exam requirement?

The requirement must be met during calendar year 2017.

3. Where will the proficiency trainings be held and the exams administered?

The training will be available at most of the regularly scheduled LSU AgCenter and association recertification meetings. There will also be multiple stand-alone sessions scheduled at locations throughout the state during the entire 2017 calendar year. A schedule will be posted here soon.

4. Can I host a proficiency training and exam administration at my place of business or other site that I am able to provide?

We will absolutely work diligently to accommodate all requests for training sessions that include a minimum of ten (10) participants. It would really be great if you could include applicators other than your employees at your site. Please call (225) 925-3796 to make arrangements.

5. How much will the proficiency training and exam cost?

The training and exam are both free of charge.

6. What if I do not pass the exam?

A minimum score of 70 percent on the exam is required to pass. You may attend another session and take the exam again.

7. Where are the study materials?

Study materials are not required. The proficiency training will include all of the information necessary to be successful on the exam.

8. How will the exam be administered?

The exam will be administered through the use of a PowerPoint presentation projected onto a large screen or wall. Test takers will be assigned a small electronic device that they will use to select their answer to a series of questions.

9. What will the exam be like?

The exam will consist of multiple components. Each component will consist of twenty (20) multiple choice questions. There will be one component consisting of general pesticide knowledge and other components made up of category specific multiple choice questions.

10. Will I have to take a test for each of my certifications?

No. The exam components made up of category specific multiple choice questions will cover more than one category. Most test takers will only need to take an exam consisting of two (2) components (one general pesticide knowledge and one category specific). Applicators with certifications in both agricultural and structural categories may need to take an exam consisting of three (3) components (one general pesticide knowledge, one agricultural specific and one structural specific).

11. How will I know if I passed the exam?

All applicators will be notified by mail of their test scores.

12. How long will a proficiency training and exam session last?

The training will take approximately two and half (2 ½) hours and the exam approximately one half (½) hour. The total time required is approximately three (3) hours. The time will vary slightly according to the number of participants and the location of the meeting.

13. Do I need to do this even though I am not due for recertification during 2017?

Yes. This is required to maintain pesticide certification in Louisiana. Recertification schedules will not be affected by this additional requirement going forward.

14. Does this proficiency training replace my required recertification due during 2017?

No. This is a separate requirement. You will still need to attend a regular recertification meeting if your certification will expire during 2017.

15. Is there an option available other than participating in proficiency training and taking the exam?

Yes. Applicators can choose to retake and achieve passing scores on the initial pesticide certification exams pertinent to the certifications they now hold.