

ISSUE: Alternate qualification procedures for county ag commissioner staff to obtain Qualified Applicator Certificates from DPR.

BACKGROUND: Many County Ag Commissioners conduct pest eradication and pest management activities which require the use of restricted materials. The restricted materials would include zinc phosphide, 2,4-D, aluminum phosphide, Section 18 products used in pest eradication programs, etc. Restricted materials can only be used by or under the direct supervision of certified applicators. ENF 85-60 established procedures allowing county ag biologists to obtain a QAC based on passing certain ag biologist license of eligibility categories as illustrated:

ENF 85-60 PROCEDURES

QAC Examination	QAC Category	Alternate Ag Biologist License of Eligibility
Laws & Regulations	*	Pesticide Use Enforcement
Right of Way	C	Weed Control
Regulatory	G	Insect & Disease Pest Management, or Weed Control, or Vertebrate Pest Control, or Plant Quarantine, or Apiary Regulation

In the mid 1990's the Ag biologist licenses of eligibility were combined and reconstituted but the alternate QAC procedures were never changed. This has resulted in uncertainty by DPR's Licensing and Certificate Program personnel when processing CAC requests for QACs for ag biologist staff.

INSPECTOR/BIOLOGIST LICENSING EXAM CATEGORIES

New License Categories	Old License Categories Included in New Category
Pesticide Regulation	Pesticide Use Enforcement
Investigation and Environmental Monitoring	Pesticide Use Enforcement
Integrated Pest Management	Insect and Disease Pest Management Vertebrate Pest Management Weed Control Apiary Regulation
Commodity Regulation	Fruit, Vegetable and Egg Quality Control
Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation	Plant Quarantine and Pest Detection Nursery and Seed Regulation

PROPOSAL:

The Ag Biologist Pesticide Regulation license is an obvious substitute for the QAC Laws and Regulations examination.

The Ag Biologist Integrated Pest Management license is an appropriate substitute for the QAC Right of Way category examination. The Integrated Pest Management license examination includes insect and disease pest management, weed control, and vertebrate pest management. Basically, this includes all the pest situations in which CACs would be involved in right of way pest control.

The Ag Biologist Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation license is an appropriate substitute for the QAC Regulatory category examination. The Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation license examination covers methods of pest detection, pest and plant identification, commodity treatment, Federal and State quarantines, and phytosanitary inspection and certification.

Issuance of QAC licenses based on these alternative examinations would still require submission of an application form (PR-PML-001A), letter requesting the QAC from the CAC, and completion of QAC Fee Waiver form (PR-ENF-139).

NEW REQUIREMENTS

QAC Examination	QAC Category	Alternate Ag Biologist License of Eligibility
Laws & Regulations	*	Pesticide Regulation
Right of Way	C	Integrated Pest Management
Regulatory	G	Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation