



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

July 25, 2008

PML-08-03

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL PEST CONTROL ADVISER LICENSE

Background Section 6550, Title 3 California Code of Regulations describes the minimum qualifications (MQs) for the agricultural pest control adviser (PCA) examination. This regulation was amended to provide more flexibility to applicants in meeting the MQ's without compromising the integrity of the PCA license.

Revisions The following summarizes the revisions to section 6550 now in effect:

- Overall college course units were reduced from 45 to 42 semester units
- Core-course topic areas were revised as follows:
 - "Physical and Biological Sciences" – 15 to 12 semester units
 - "Crop Health" – 12 to 9 semester units
 - "Pest Management and Systems" – 9 to 6 semester units
 - "Production Systems" – 9 to 6 semester units

Bachelor's Degree Allowable bachelor's degree topic areas were broadened to include "natural sciences".

Core-Course Topic Allow the following to count towards the core-course topics area:

- Established 9 semester elective units in any of the core-course topic areas of crop health, pest management methods or systems or production systems. The core-course topic areas only require 33 semester units. Therefore the electives provide the additional units to meet the 42 semester unit requirement.
- Work experience as an assistant to, or work as, a certified crop adviser counts as technical experience.

continued on next page

County Agricultural Commissioners
July 25, 2008
Page 2

Core Course Topic cont.

- Current crop adviser certificate from the American Society of Agronomy counts towards 3 semester units for the “Crop Health” core area.
- “Courses on alternative cropping systems, and sustainable or organic agricultural systems” counts towards the “Pest Management Systems and Methods” core area.
- An accredited doctoral degree in agricultural sciences, biological sciences, natural sciences, or pest management fulfills the MQ requirements.

Grade Point Average Requires a minimum 2.0 grade-point average in the core-course topic areas.

Clarity of requirements Specifies the required technical experience in the core areas for further clarity.

Enclosure Enclosed is a copy of the revised regulation summary sheet and PCA fact sheet. The updated PCA license application packet is on our website at <www.cdpr.ca.gov>. Please disregard all older PCA license application packets.

Contact Information If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cynthia Ray, at (916) 445-4026 or <cray@cdpr.ca.gov> or Mac Takeda at (916) 445-3838 or <mtakeda@cdpr.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

David Duncan, Chief
Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pest Management and Licensing Branch
(916) 445-3870

Enclosures

[Fact Sheet for the Agricultural Pest Control Adviser License](#) (PDF, 38, kb)

[Minimum Education Requirements for Agricultural Pest Control Advisers](#) (PDF, 59 kb)

cc: Ms. Cynthia Ray, Program Technician, w/o Enclosures
Mr. Mac Takeda, Agriculture Program Supervisor II, w/o Enclosures
Ms. Nan Gorder, Chief, Enforcement Branch, w/Enclosures
Mr. Jim Shattuck, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, w/Enclosures