



Brian R. Leahy  
Director

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

February 7, 2013

PML 13-01

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: ALTERNATE QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER STAFF TO OBTAIN A QUALIFIED APPLICATOR CERTIFICATE

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**Purpose**

This document replaces Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) Letter PML 03-06. It revises the alternate procedure for CAC staff to obtain a qualified applicator certificate (QAC), adding an additional QAC pest control category to the two categories already approved in PML 03-06 available at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/county/cacltrs/pmltrs/pml2003/2003006.htm> .

Effective immediately, the alternate qualification procedure now applies to three QAC pest control categories:

- Right-of-way
- Regulatory
- Residential, Industrial and Institutional

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**Alternate qualification procedure**

The alternate qualification procedure to obtain a QAC waives the following two standard requirements for CAC staff:

- Paying fees
- Passing DPR's QAC examinations

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**Background**

As part of their job duties, certain CAC staff use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides under a mandated county, state, or federal pest management program. Usually this involves right-of-way pest control, regulatory pest eradication programs and, less commonly, application of fumigants at CAC facilities.

At the 2012 Winter Conference, the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) discussed adding an additional QAC category – residential, industrial and institutional – to the two categories already approved in DPR’s CAC Letter PML 03-06. The justification for the additional category was described in a letter from the CACASA Pesticide Regulatory Affairs Committee to DPR on January 9, 2013.

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**Who is eligible**

To be eligible, CAC staff must verify that they:

- Are performing pest control in right-of-way, regulatory, or industrial settings as part of their job duties.
- Possess a valid CDFA license in Pesticide Regulation. This license substitutes for the required DPR examination Laws, Regulations and the Basic Principles of Safe Pesticide Use.
- Possess certain additional valid county agricultural inspector biologist licenses issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The valid CDFA licenses are listed in the following paragraph, “Qualifying CDFA licenses.”

If CAC staff separate employment, the QAC would become invalid. Staff would need to apply for a new QAC when employed by a CAC in a different county.

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**Address of record**

DPR will use the address of the employing CAC office as the address of record for the QAC holder. The QAC holder is required to notify DPR if they separate employment from the CAC, or if there is a change of address for the CAC office.

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**How to apply  
 or renew**

To apply for a new QAC or to add a new category to an existing QAC, CAC staff need to submit to DPR a:

- Completed QAC Application, PR-PML-001A, indicating the pest control category(ies) desired.
- Completed waiver request form, PR-PML-001A-WR, indicating the valid county inspector biologist license(s) held by the applicant.
- Copy of the qualifying CDFA county inspector biologist licenses.

To renew a QAC, CAC staff need to submit to DPR a:

- Completed waiver request form, PR-PML-001A-WR.
- Documentation of completing the number of continuing education hours required for renewing their QAC.

**Qualifying  
 CDFA licenses**

The table below describes the relationship between the DPR QAC pest control categories, DPR examinations, and CDFA county inspector biologist licenses.

<b>QAC pest control category</b>	<b>DPR examinations required for standard application procedure</b>	<b>CDFA licenses required for alternate procedure</b>
Right-of-way	1) Laws, Regulations, and the Basic Principles of Safe Pesticide Use 2) Right-of-way	1) Pesticide Regulation 2) Integrated Pest Management
Regulatory	1) Laws, Regulations, and the Basic Principles of Safe Pesticide Use 2) Regulatory	1) Pesticide Regulation 2) Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation
Residential, Industrial and Institutional	1) Laws, Regulations, and the Basic Principles of Safe Pesticide Use 2) Residential, Industrial and Institutional	1) Pesticide Regulation 2) Integrated Pest Management 3) Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation

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**Referrals**      If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Adolfo R. Gallo, Program Specialist, at (916) 445-3895.

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Sincerely,

*Original on file*

Nan Gorder, Ph.D., Environmental Program Manager II  
Pest Management and Licensing Branch  
(916) 445-4038

Enclosures:    [QAC Application form, PR PML-001A, PDF \(111 kb\)](#)  
                  [QAC Waiver Request form, PR-PML-001A-WR, PDF \(15 kb\)](#)

cc:      Mr. Tom Babb, Environmental Program Manager I, Pest Management and Licensing Branch (w/Enclosures)

          Mr. Adolfo Gallo, Program Specialist, Pest Management and Licensing Branch (w/Enclosures)