

GENERAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS

To obtain commercial certification, applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of the following general standards:

1. Label and labeling;
2. Safety;
3. Environment;
4. Pests;
5. Pesticides;
6. Equipment;
7. Application techniques; and
8. Laws and regulations.

These standards apply to all pest control categories.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(a)(b)(1)

Label
comprehension

Listed below are the factors for each General Standard.

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of label-related factors, such as:

1. General labeling format and terminology;
2. Label instructions;
3. Warnings;
4. Terms;
5. Symbols; and
6. Other common labeling information.

Applicators must understand the:

1. Differences between a "general use pesticide" and a "restricted use pesticide", and the requirements for their possession and use; and
2. Need for following the label.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(i)

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Safety

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of safety-related factors, such as:

1. Pesticide toxicity, hazards to man, and the common exposure routes;
2. Common types and causes of accidents;
3. Precautions to guard against injury to applicators and others in or near treated areas;
4. Need for and use of protective clothing and equipment;
5. Symptoms of pesticide poisoning;
6. First aid and other procedures in response to a pesticide accident;
7. Proper pesticide:
 - a. Identification;
 - b. Storage;
 - c. Transport;
 - d. Handling;
 - e. Mixing; and
 - f. Disposal methods, including used containers; and
8. Precautions for preventing children access to pesticides or containers and equipment.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(ii)

Environment

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of potential consequences from the use and misuse of pesticides, influenced by such factors as:

1. Weather and climatic conditions;
2. Types of:
 - a. Terrain;
 - b. Soil; and
 - c. Other substrate;
3. Presence of:
 - a. Fish;
 - b. Wildlife;
 - c. Other non-target organisms; and
4. Drainage patterns.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(iii)

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Pest

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of pest-related factors, such as:

1. Pest identification based on:
 - a. Common features of pests;
 - b. Damage characteristics;
2. Recognition of relevant pests; and
3. Identifying and controlling pest problems in relation to pest development and biology.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(iv)

Pesticides

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of pesticide-related factors, such as:

1. Types of pesticides;
2. Types of formulations;
3. Formulation effects on;
 - a. Compatibility;
 - b. Synergism;
 - c. Persistence;
 - d. Animal toxicity; and
 - e. Plant toxicity;
4. Hazards and residues from use;
5. Factors influencing
 - a. Effectiveness;
 - b. Resistance; and
6. Dilution procedures.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(v)

Equipment

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of equipment-related factors, such as:

1. Types of equipment and their;
 - a. Advantages;
 - b. Disadvantages;
 - c. Limitations;
 - d. Uses;
 - e. Calibration; and
 - f. Maintenance.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(vi)

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Application
techniques

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of application techniques and factors, such as:

1. Methods and procedures to apply various pesticide formulations;
2. As well as proper techniques for a given situation;
3. Relation of discharge and placement to proper use, unnecessary use, or misuse; and
4. Preventing drift or other loss into the environment.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(vii)

Laws and
regulations

Applicators must demonstrate competency, knowledge, and an understanding of:

1. State and federal
 - a. Laws; and
 - b. Regulations.

Reference: 40CFR §171.4(b)(1)(viii)
