Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Licensing and Certification Program Examination Information

DPR’s Licensing and Certification Program offers computer-based examinations for all individual exams. Applications for a new DPR license or certificate will continue to be mailed to and processed by DPR’s Licensing and Certification Program.

You may obtain a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) or Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) by submitting the application, appropriate fees, and passing the required examinations for Laws, Regulations, and Basic Principles and at least one pest control category exam. You must pass the Laws, Regulations, and Basic Principles examination and at least one pest control category exam with a score of 70 percent or higher.

You do not need to write in your choice for an exam date and location on your application. Please leave the “Exam Schedule” section of your application blank. Once your application and payment are received by DPR, you will be contacted by email to schedule your exam date, time, and location at one of the testing centers located throughout California. Applicants will be contacted in the order received by no-reply@psiexams.com at the email address noted on their application. Note that you should use a unique email address, as it will be used as your personal login to schedule your exam.

To prepare for the examination, DPR suggests that you read the appropriate study materials as listed on the Suggested Study Material Source List. Many of the study materials have practice test questions at the end of each chapter that can help you evaluate whether you know the material well enough to pass the exam. For most categories, there are specific Knowledge Expectations that outline the information you will be expected to know when you take the examination.

The application fee is $80 for a QAL and $40 for a QAC. The examination fee is $50 for each exam you take (including re-examinations due to rescheduling, failure to appear, or failure to pass).

Enclose a check, money order, or the Visa/MasterCard credit information form made payable to “Cashier - DPR” and mail applications to:

Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Attn: Cashier MS-4A  
P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

If you haven’t heard from DPR within 45 days of mailing your application, please email LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov.

Please visit the DPR website to review the application forms and to download any other documents you may need. DPR does not accept emailed or faxed applications.
Once you have received your email referral, you can create an account with PSI (or log in if you already have an account). You can then schedule the date and location of your choosing. Availability at some sites may be limited.

This is the current list of PSI Examination Sites (updated 8/1/2023):

- Agoura Hills
- Arcata
- Atascadero
- Bakersfield
- Calimesa
- Carson
- Diamond Bar
- El Monte – Santa Fe Springs
- Fresno
- Irvine
- Lawndale
- Modesto
- Redding
- Riverside
- Roseville
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Clara
- Santa Rosa
- Stockton
- Union City
- Ventura
- Visalia
- Walnut Creek

We encourage you to sign up for DPR’s Licensing, Certification, and Continuing Education electronic mail list so that you can be informed of important licensing updates.

Cheating is Against the Law: Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) Section 11972 makes it unlawful for any person to cheat on or subvert a licensing examination. “Subvert” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized possession, reproduction, or distribution of any portion of the licensing examination. It is also unlawful to make any false or fraudulent statement, record, report or use any fraud or misrepresentation in connection with meeting any license requirement. Please note that each offense is punishable by a civil penalty of up to $5,000.