

**Pest Control Category Descriptions**  
**Qualified Applicator Certificate**  
**Qualified Applicator License**

This document provides general information to help applicators identify the most appropriate category for the type of pest control they will be performing or supervising. Contact the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) with questions.

**Residential, Industrial and Institutional (Category A)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in:

- Residential areas and around households and immediate environments;
- Industrial establishments, such as, packinghouses, food manufacturing and processing plants, warehouse, grain elevators and factories;
- Stored or post-harvest commodity fumigations at facilities or on trucks, vans, or rail cars;
- Mining and chemical processes;
- Institutions, such as, schools, hospitals, libraries, auditoriums, and office buildings;
- Non-landscaped outside areas, such as, walkways, parking lots, storage yards, tank farms, or electrical substations that are directly related to the operation of buildings or facilities;
- Treatment of cooling towers and evaporative condensers;
- Sanitizing institutional potable lines, dairy milk lines, and other similar areas; and
- Bird control on structures, when birds are damaging ornamental and turf plantings adjacent to structure.

This category does not cover the use of pesticides for landscape maintenance, nor does it include structural pest control for hire. Structural pest control involves the control of pests, which may invade households or other structures. A business that is involved in structural pest control for hire is licensed by the Structural Pest Control Board. For more information, contact the Structural Pest Control Board, [www.pestboard.ca.gov](http://www.pestboard.ca.gov); or call (916) 561-8704.

**Landscape Maintenance (Category B)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in the maintenance of preexisting, planted or artificial ornamental plants and turf. This includes trees, shrubs, flowers and other plantings intended primarily for aesthetic purposes in and around habitations, buildings and surrounding grounds, including residences, parks, streets and commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. It also includes landscaped areas in enclosed shopping malls and indoor plants.

This category does not include direct application to running or standing water.

Note: If you own or work for a licensed Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business the areas where you can legally conduct pest control, including use of pesticides, are limited to incidental pest control on sites included in the scope of the Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business license. For more information, see Subcategory Q below or the Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License Packet at [http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/app\\_packets/mgardener.pdf](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/app_packets/mgardener.pdf).

### **Right-of-Way (Category C)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in:

- Maintenance of roads, highways, power lines, telephone lines, pipelines, canals, railroads or other similar sites;
- Landscaped right-of-way areas.

This category does not include direct application to running or standing water.

### **Plant Agriculture (Category D)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in:

- Production of food, feed, fiber, or ornamental crops;
- Grasslands and non-crop agricultural areas;
- Rice and similar crops grown in wet or flooded fields.

This category does not cover applications to running or standing water or field fumigation applications.

### **Forest (Category E)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in:

- Forest, forest nurseries, and forest seed-producing areas;
- Site preparation for tree planting, conifer release brush control projects, and stump treatment in forestry management.

This category does not include direct applications to running or standing water.

### **Aquatic (Category F)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in or on standing or running water.

This category does not include the use of restricted use pesticides for health related, regulated pests, demonstration and research, sewer line root pest control purposes or applications to rice and similar crops grown in wet or flooded fields.

### **Regulatory (Category G)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in official government programs for the control of regulated pests, such as CDFA quarantine programs for Mediterranean fruit fly, Asian citrus psyllid, etc.

### **Seed Treatment (Category H)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to protect seed for planting.

### **Animal Agriculture (Category I)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests on animals and the facilities in which the animals are confined.

### **Demonstration and Research (Category J)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices when:

- Demonstrating proper application techniques to others if conducting approved field research;
- Pesticide Research Authorization form has been submitted and approved by DPR. See website for form <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/regforms/ra/ramenu.htm>.

This category is not required of applicators that demonstrate proper techniques, provided they hold all specific categories covering the type of pest control being performed.

### **Health Related (Category K)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in official programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance, such as official government mosquito abatement programs.

### **Wood Preservation (Subcategory L)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control pests in:

- Wood damage;
- Wood preservation application within the scope of Residential, Industrial and Institutional, and Right-of-Way pest control categories.

### **Antifouling Paints or Coatings Containing Tributyltin (Subcategory M)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of antifouling paints or coatings containing tributyltin to control the growth of aquatic organisms on aluminum vessel hulls, commercial or recreational vessel hulls 82 feet or more in length, and/or on outboard motors and lower drive units.

### **Sewer Line Root Control (Subcategory N)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use pesticides, substances, methods, or devices to control roots in sewer lines.

### **Field Fumigation (Subcategory O)**

This category allows you to apply or supervise the application of restricted and general use fumigants to control pests in field soil only.

This category does not include fumigation of potting soil, soil in greenhouses, or tree/vine hole sites. It also does not include the use of fumigants for rodent and gopher control in fields.

### **Microbial Pest Control (Subcategory P)**

This category allows you to conduct microbial pest control when engaged in activities, which include:

- Sulfur dioxide fumigant to treat corks and wooden barrels used in wine production;
- Disinfect potable water systems;
- Industrial cooling towers and evaporative condensers.

### **Maintenance Gardener (Subcategory Q) QAC ONLY**

This subcategory allows incidental\* pest control (including application or supervision of the application of non-restricted\*\* pesticides and other methods or devices to control pests) for commercial maintenance gardening activities in ornamental and turf plantings located:

- Indoors, such as in malls;
- Surrounding structures (such as: buildings, brick walls, fountains, fences, or statues) where the ornamental or turf planting is near or close to the structure yet distinct and separate from any planting which may constitute a larger landscaped open space (i.e., park, cemetery lawn, golf course turf, etc.); or
- In commercial parks where several commercial establishments (e.g. stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses or factories) are located. This includes, but is not limited to business parks, office parks, and shopping centers or malls.

\*Incidental pest control is a result or minor consequence of a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business's overall ornamental and turf maintenance activities.

\*\*Non-restricted pesticides:

If you have Subcategory Q you cannot apply or supervise application of any pesticide classified as a California restricted material, this includes all pesticides with the "Restricted Use Pesticide" box on the front panel. The remaining "general use pesticides" are available for purchase by anyone, provided they are applied according to labeling instructions on the individual's own property or with permission of the property owner.

A person regularly engaged in the business of maintenance gardening who engages in pest control for hire incidental to the maintenance gardening business must also obtain a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License. See the Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License packet for more information at [http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/app\\_packets/mgardener.pdf](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/app_packets/mgardener.pdf).

This category does not include direct application to running or standing water.