



Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER

Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Hemp, Pesticide and Seed

Mark LeBlanc, Ph.D.
State Chemist &
Seed Commissioner

Purdue University • 175 South University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063
Telephone (765) 494-1492 • Facsimile (765) 494-4331
www.oisc.purdue.edu

Updated February 10, 2023

2023 RULE REVISION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following questions have been asked of OISC, regarding interpretation and implementation of the pesticide applicator certification and training rules that became effective January 4, 2023. As new questions are posed to OISC, this FAQ document will be updated accordingly and posted at <https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/index.html> .

- 1. I am a farmer. Under the new rules, do I need to pass both the core exam (general standards) and the category 1 (agricultural pest management) exam to apply Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) on my own farm or on farmland that I rent and spray for myself?**

No, you are not required to pass both the core and category 1 exams, just the core exam. The requirements for certification as a private applicator (farmer) have not been changed. However, under the revised rules, only certified applicators will be allowed to use RUPs. Supervision of noncertified applicators is no longer permitted. Any farm employee that applies RUP's must hold a private applicator credential. The process for becoming a private applicator is posted at https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/how_do_i_pa.html .

- 2. As a farmer, am I now required to be certified to apply General Use Pesticides (GUPs)?**

No, the certification requirement applies only to those farmers using RUPs.

- 3. I understand that individuals that apply RUPs must now be fully certified and credentialed as a private applicator (farmer) or a commercial applicator. But are individuals that mix, load, handle, clean spray equipment, and rinse containers for disposal of RUPs required to be fully certified?**

Yes, anyone who is responsible for any part of the use and application process, which includes mixing, loading, application, cleaning RUP application equipment, or rinsing pesticide containers prior to disposal must be a certified and licensed private applicator or a commercial applicator. There are no longer provisions for supervision of registered technicians (RTs) or noncertified individuals using RUPs.

- 4. Are truck drivers that transport unopened RUP or GUP pesticide containers or pre-mixed "hot loads" in closed systems required to be certified applicators?**

Truck drivers are not required to be certified and licensed if they are involved in nothing more than transportation of unopened RUP or GUP containers or transportation of "hot loads" that were mixed by a certified and licensed applicator. In all cases, a fully certified commercial applicator or private applicator

must be present to open and mix the product(s) or load the “hot load” into the spray rig.

5. If an employee or helper is assisting an on-site certified applicator with RUP or GUP mixing or loading, but is not directing the process or is not making any decisions about what or how to mix the products, is that helper required to be certified?

Separate from certification and licensing, all agricultural pesticide workers and handlers are required to be trained annually under the EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) rule <https://pesticideresources.org/wps/training/percvids/>. Individuals that are fully certified and licensed or credentialed as registered technicians (RTs) are exempt from this annual WPS worker/handler training requirement. Helpers that are WPS trained and assisting on-site certified applicators with the mixing and loading process, by providing an extra set of hands to ease the task, will be determined to be following the rules. The objectives of the certification rule and WPS rule requirements is to ensure that pesticide applications can be made safely and effectively. Therefore, all related pesticide use decisions must be made and directed by on-site certified applicators, regardless of who may be lending a helping hand.

6. Does commercial General Use Pesticide (GUP) use still require a certified applicator?

Yes, certification and licensing requirements for commercial applicators that use GUPs (for hire, at schools, at golf courses, or for community-wide mosquito control) have remained relatively unchanged under the revised certification rules. Full certification (core + category) is still required for applicators or supervisors in each of these commercial GUP user groups.

7. Does supervision of noncertified individuals still exist for commercial GUP use?

Yes, supervision of noncertified commercial GUP users still exists. Supervision has been made more flexible under the new rules. Supervision of noncertified end users applying, handling, mixing, loading, or transporting GUPs commercially still requires that a fully certified supervisor provide direct voice or text communication, complete label copies, label-required equipment, and label-required PPE to the noncertified individual. Commercial for hire use of GUPs also requires that the noncertified individual be credentialed as a registered technician (RT) or that the fully certified supervisor be continuously on site with the noncertified employee during use.

8. Can registered technicians (RTs) supervise commercial GUP use?

No, as was the case under the old rules, RTs can not supervise other RTs or other noncertified individuals.

