



Office of

INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER

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

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December 27, 2010 - Revised 01/03/2011 - Minor Revision - 04/11/2013

TO: Confined Feeding Operations, Category 1 Licensed Pesticide Businesses, and Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Educators

FROM: Robert D. Waltz, Ph.D., State Chemist & Seed Commissioner

NEW!!! FERTILIZER APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION RULE

On July 28, 2010, the Indiana rule requiring *Certification for Distributors and Users of Fertilizer Materials (355 IAC 7-1-1)* became effective. The date for full compliance with the requirements of this rule will be **January 1, 2012**.

The processes resulting in this new rule have been supported by a variety of agricultural groups and others who have envisioned this as an opportunity for fertilizer material applicators and distributors such as you to demonstrate your competency and ability to handle and apply these materials safely and effectively. In addition, this provides a state-wide standard for applicator certification and training.

For general questions, go to www.oisc.purdue.edu or call **1-800-893-6637**.

Summary of the rule requirements:

1. For purposes of this rule, “**fertilizer material**” is defined to mean both commercial fertilizer and manure from a confined feeding operation (CFO).
2. Any person using (applying, handling, or transporting) fertilizer material **for hire** for purposes of producing an agricultural crop must be:
 - a) certified and licensed by OISC in Category 14; or
 - b) trained & supervised by a Category 14 applicator; and
 - c) working for a licensed Category 14 fertilizer business.
3. Any person applying manure from a CFO (in excess of 10 cubic yards or 4,000 gallons per year) to his/her own property must be certified by OISC as a **private fertilizer applicator**.
4. Certified and licensed applicators may **supervise** up to ten (10) employees that they have trained and are working within the business or farming operation.
5. Any person (individual, partnership, corporation, business, etc.) that **only distributes** but does not use fertilizer material must obtain a fertilizer distributor business license.

How do I get certified & licensed to use or distribute fertilizer material?

1. Fertilizer business license (*to apply fertilizer material for hire*):
 - a) employ at least one Category 14 applicator (*has passed the category 14 exam*)
 - b) submit the license application form and \$45.00 annual fee (*no additional application form or fee is required if already pesticide licensed*)
2. Private fertilizer applicator (*to apply CFO manure to his/her own farm*):
 - a) pass the Category 14 exam
 - b) submit the certification application form and \$20.00 per five year fee (*no additional application form or fee is required if already pesticide licensed*)
3. Trained employee (*to apply fertilizer material under the supervision of a certified fertilizer applicator*):
 - a) complete in-house training by a certified supervisor in the business/operation
 - b) have certified applicator keep a record of employee fertilizer training
4. Fertilizer distributor license (*to distribute or broker fertilizer material; no application, no handling and no transportation are permitted*):
 - a) submit the distributor license application form and \$45.00 annual fee
 - b) no exam is required for distribution only license

When & where can I take the Category 14 fertilizer certification exam?

The Category 14 fertilizer certification exam is available now. The draft study manual "[Fertilizer Certification Study Manual](#)" [pdf; source: Purdue Pesticide Programs] is available for download or viewing. While the certification requirements will not be enforceable until 2012, applicators and distributors are encouraged to start the certification process as soon as possible. Specific details on the exam process can be found under "*Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule*" at <http://www.oisc.purdue.edu> or by calling 1-800-893-6637. Much like pesticide applicator certification, there will be three (3) options for taking this exam:

1. One day training with exam at the end. Training sessions anticipated to begin in August, 2011. Call 765-494-4566 for details on training dates & locations.
2. Schedule for one of the once monthly exam only sessions at Purdue University, West Lafayette (765-494-1594). Order study manual to prepare for exam (1-888-398-4636).
3. Schedule for exam on almost any day at a remote H&R Block Testing Center, for a fee (1-800-345-6559). Order study manual to prepare for exam (1-888-398-4636).

Frequently Asked Questions about the Fertilizer Certification Rule

- 1. Why is the State Chemist requiring fertilizer material certification for something that I have been doing for years without certification?**

The purpose of this rule is to insure that fertilizer users are competent to apply and handle these materials safely and effectively and in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on water quality and the environment. The processes resulting in this new rule have been supported by a variety of agricultural groups and others who have envisioned this as an opportunity for fertilizer material applicators and distributors such as you to demonstrate your competency and ability to handle and apply these materials safely and effectively. In addition, this provides a state-wide standard for applicator certification and training.

- 2. The new rule requires individuals that apply fertilizer material for hire to have a commercial applicator license. How do I get licensed as a commercial fertilizer material applicator?**

You must pass the Category 14 exam to become certified. You must also file a license application form and fee and be employed by a firm holding a valid fertilizer business license. Details are available at <http://www.oisc.purdue.edu> (click on the “*Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule*” and follow the commercial applicator links) or 1-800-893-6637.

- 3. The rule requires farmers or producers that apply manure from a CFO to be certified. How do I become certified to apply manure from a CFO to my own farm?**

Like commercial applicators, you must pass the Category 14 exam and file a license application form and fee. Details are available at <http://www.oisc.purdue.edu> (click on the “*Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule*” and follow the private applicator links) or 765-494-6271.

- 4. If I apply manure from a CFO for hire to my neighbor's fields and also apply it to my own fields will I need both a commercial fertilizer applicator business license and a private fertilizer applicator license?**

No. A commercial fertilizer license will cover both your for hire applications and those applications to your own farm. Only one fertilizer credential will be required.

- 5. What if I do not pass the certification exam? Can I take the exam again?**

Yes, you can attempt the exam up to three times in a twelve month period.

- 6. What are the costs to become certified and licensed?**

The annual fee for the fertilizer business license, the commercial applicator license, and the fertilizer distributor only license are \$45 each. The five year fee for the private applicator certification is \$20. No additional license fees will be charged if you are already pesticide licensed. The cost for training (optional) will be \$90 (includes a study manual) and the study manual will be \$32. There is no fee for the exam unless you elect to

take it at one of the regionally located test vendor (H &R Block) locations.

7. How soon can I become certified?

You can start the process immediately. The first step will be passing the category 14 exam.

8. I already have a pesticide license. Will I now have to carry two cards?

No, whether you are a commercial applicator or a private applicator your fertilizer certification will be added to your current pesticide credential at no additional charge.

9. Once I become certified and licensed when will it expire?

When you pass the exam you will be eligible for a license at any time before December 31st of the fourth year of your certification period. The commercial applicator license (for hire) is an annual license that expires and is renewable on December 31st each year. The private applicator certification (farmer/producer) is a five year credential that expires on December 31st of the fourth year after issuance.

10. How can I become recertified at the end of my five year period?

You have two options. Whether you are a commercial applicator or a private applicator you can either: 1) retake the Category 14 exam within the last six months of your certification period; or 2) attend OISC approved fertilizer recertification training programs before the end of your five year period.

Commercial applicators must accumulate at least three (3) Category 14 continuing certification hours (CCHs). Private applicators must attend at least three (3) Private Applicator Recertification Certification Programs (PARP). It is anticipated that both fertilizer and pesticide credit will be offered at many of the training programs that you are already attending.

11. I am certified in Ohio as a custom livestock manager. Do I need to get a license in Indiana also?

Yes, an Indiana certification is also required if you apply CFO manure in Indiana.

12. My neighbor plants my no till beans. In return I apply manure from my lagoon on his fields. No money is exchanged. Do I need a fertilizer business license?

Yes, you will need both a fertilizer business license and a commercial applicator license. The exam is the same, but you will need commercial licensing.

13. I operate a CFO. I apply some manure to my own fields and sell some of the manure through a broker. Do I need a business license?

Yes, selling or offering to sell manure is part of distribution. Manure distributors need a fertilizer business license or a fertilizer distributor only license.

14. I buy manure from Ohio and apply it on my own land. Do I need a license?

Yes, if the Ohio facility is a CFO sized facility (300 cattle, 600 swine, 600 sheep or 30,000 fowl) or larger you must get a private applicator certification. However, if the facility is under the CFO size, no license is required.

15. I apply potash to my own fields in the fall, starter fertilizer when I plant corn, and anhydrous for side dress. Do I need a license?

No, as long as these fertilizer applications are made to your own fields and are not done for hire you do not need a license to apply commercially available fertilizers.

16. Do I need a license to haul turkey litter for hire from small producers and pile it on other farms?

Yes, transporting and staging manure is considered part of “use” and any for-hire use requires a commercial fertilizer license.

17. Is the certified applicator the only one that can apply fertilizer material?

No, a certified applicator may supervise up to 10 trained employees working for the business or CFO operation.

18. What are the requirements for a “trained employee” to be supervised?

The fertilizer certified supervisor must train the employee with the OISC approved training. The supervisor must also keep a record of that training, provide a means for direct voice contact with the employee, make work assignments, and know the status of those assignments.

19. I have a fertilizer business license. Can I now buy commercial fertilizer at wholesale and retail it to my own customers?

No, you will also need to become a fertilizer registrant and permit holder to do that. Call 765-494-1548 for details on becoming a fertilizer registrant and permit holder.

20. Is compost or mulch considered fertilizer material covered by this rule?

Composted manure is a fertilizer material. However, mulch that makes no plant nutrient claims is not, as long as fertilizer is not a key component of the mulch.