

INFORMATION for Private Applicator Certificate (PAC) Holders

To align with federal changes of pesticide use certification and training (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations Part 171 “Certification of Pesticide Applicators”), the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is implementing regulatory updates to the state’s certified private applicator program which will become effective January 1, 2024.

There are several changes that will impact growers, and/or their employees, who currently hold a Private Applicator Certificate (PAC). Three of the most significant changes are the following:

1. Examination and Continuing Education – The Private Applicator Certification Exam (administered at County Agricultural Commissioner Offices) has been updated. The holder of a PAC, which expires **after December 31, 2023**, must pass the updated exam in order to be issued a renewed PAC.

Growers whose PAC expires December 31, 2023, with last names that begin with letters “R to Z”, may renew with continuing education credit only **until December 29, 2023**. The last day of the year our office will be open is Friday, December 29, 2023. Please call to make an appointment.

Taking and passing the new exam will be required at, or before, a PAC’s expiration date. Expirations will occur over a three-year period as follows:

- Expires December 31, 2023 – PAC w/ last names “R-Z”
- Expires December 31, 2024 – PAC w/ last names “A-H”
- Expires December 31, 2025 – PAC w/ last names “I-Q”

Once the new exam has been successfully passed, the PAC holder will have the option (as has always been the case) of obtaining DPR-approved continuing education credit to renew their certificate by the next expiration date, or alternatively by taking a re-certification exam.

2. Study Guide – The study manual for preparing for the Private Applicator Certification Exam has also been updated and there is a new edition available for growers to purchase and review. “Pesticide Safety: A Study Manual for Private Applicators, 3rd Edition” can be obtained through the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (UCANR) at <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu> or by contacting UC Cooperative Extension at (831)763-8001.
3. Burrowing Vertebrate Pest Fumigant Use EXAM – If you are a grower who intends to purchase, or apply, rodent fumigant materials, such as aluminum phosphide, for gopher and/or ground squirrel management, **you must pass both the updated Private Applicator Certification Exam *and* the additional Burrowing Vertebrate Pest Fumigation Certificate Exam by January 1, 2024** to remain in compliance regardless of your PAC’s current expiration date. The preparation material for this additional exam can be found at DPR’s website and downloaded for review. https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/app_packets/burrowing_vertibrate_pest_fumigation_study_manual.pdf

If you have any questions about these changes to the Private Applicator Certification process, and requirements, our office is here to address any additional explanation or clarification needs. Please contact our office at (831)763-8080. Website: [Agricultural Commissioner \(agdept.com\)](http://AgriculturalCommissioner(agdept.com))