

U.S. EPA CERTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATORS RULE
COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR 2016 REVISIONS TO THE EXISTING RULE

FINAL RULE	CURRENT RULE
Certified Applicators	
Strengthen competency standards for private applicators to cover content necessary for safe application of RUPs, similar to commercial applicator core competency plus agricultural pest control.	Private applicator competency standards cover 5 general topics.
Establish certification categories for certain application methods (soil fumigation, non-soil fumigation, aerial application) for private and commercial applicators.	Private applicators: no categories of certification Commercial applicators: no additional certification to use certain application methods.
Establish a mandatory 5-year certification period for private and commercial applicators; recertification must ensure applicator's continued competency through continuing education or retesting.	No federal requirements for recertification (timeframe or content).
Eliminate special process to allow non-readers to be certified as private applicators.	Non-readers can be certified to use restricted use pesticides under a special process administered by the state.
Noncertified Applicators Working Under the Direct Supervision of Certified Applicators	
Require annual pesticide safety training for noncertified applicators using RUPs similar to the training for handlers under the Worker Protection Standard (safety, proper pesticide application techniques, responding to spills, protecting oneself, others and the environment). Alternatives to training under the rule include completing WPS handler training or meeting state-specific requirements.	No requirement for instruction in safety, proper pesticide application techniques, responding to spills, protecting oneself, others and the environment.
Require the supervising applicator to provide specific instructions related to application and ensure that the noncertified applicator has access to a copy of the labeling at the time of application.	Supervising applicator must provide general guidance on applying a specific pesticide.
Require supervising certified applicator to provide means for immediate communication with noncertified applicator.	Supervising applicator must provide noncertified applicator with instructions on how to contact the supervisor in the event he or she is needed.

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Minimum Age	
Require all persons using restricted use pesticides to be at least 18 years old (private applicators, commercial applicators, noncertified applicators). <i>Exception</i> for minimum age of at least 16 years old for noncertified applicator on a farm under the supervision of a private applicator who is a member of the noncertified applicator’s immediate family.	No minimum age to use restricted use pesticides.
Program Administration	
Require candidates for certification (exam and training) and recertification by exam to present government-issued identification or state-established equivalent . Require states to verify identity of candidates for recertification by training, continuing education, or workshop (not exam).	No identification required for persons seeking certification to apply restricted use pesticides.
Require certification exams to be proctored and only approved materials may be used during exams .	Certification exams must be written.
Require dealers of restricted use pesticides to maintain records of sales .	No requirement for dealers of restricted use pesticides to maintain records.

For additional information on the revisions to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule, please visit:
www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety