

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD

Division of Pesticide Control

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COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR LICENSING (FOR HIRE)

New Hampshire law requires that anyone applying pesticides on a commercial basis, on the property of another, must be licensed as a commercial applicator. This license is required regardless of whether the applicator gets paid for the service and regardless of whether the pesticide would be classified as general use, including over the counter homeowner type pesticides, or restricted use.

Categories of Licensing

New Hampshire commercial applicator licenses are specific to a particular category which is pretty much dependent upon the site at which pesticides are applied. There are 21 different categories of licensing including Shade and Ornamental Pest Control, Turf Pest Control, Mosquito and Black Fly Control and numerous others all of which are listed on the application form. Again, the categories pretty much correspond with particular pests and the sites where you would find those pests. The Administrative Rules provide a definition of each of the categories of licensing. If a person obtains a commercial applicator license in one category, they cannot spray under any of the other categories unless they actually hold that particular category, as well.

Supervisory License

There are two levels of commercial applicator licenses in New Hampshire, supervisory and operational. New Hampshire law requires that at least one member of any business, firm or entity or branch office is in possession of a supervisory level license. This must be the person who is actually supervising other persons who may be involved with the application of pesticides. In addition to the supervisory level license, the firm, branch office or entity also has to be registered. When one obtains a supervisory license, that person would register the business at the same time.

Operational License

Once a business, firm or branch office has obtained the supervisory license and the firm registration, they may wish to license other persons who would actually be applying the pesticides. The law requires that at least one member of each crew applying pesticides be in possession of, at least, an operational level license.

Steps toward Licensing – Supervisory

Persons interested in becoming licensed as a commercial applicator at the supervisory level must first submit a resume form provided by the Division of Pesticide Control upon which the applicant would compile information related to their experience as it would pertain to the particular category of licensing that they are seeking. They would list all of this information as required by the form, submitting that to the Division of Pesticide Control who reviews the information to see if the background and experience of the applicant meets the criteria specified in the Administrative Rules. The Division responds back to the applicant, in writing. If the resume is accepted, the letter notifying of that acceptance would include the necessary application forms and instructions that would need to be completed by the applicant. Once an applicant's resume has been approved, the applicant may proceed to schedule a written examination that is administered by the Division. Written examinations are given every week. An advanced appointment must be made, however, in order to take the test. After the written test is successfully completed, the applicant would be scheduled for an oral examination given by a panel of three persons. The Division schedules oral exams and the applicant is notified as to the date and time that they should appear for the examination.

Other Requirements

In addition to the written and oral examinations, application forms, and fees, applicants must submit the insurance certificates and the firm registration form in order to register the business. After the applicant has completed the examinations and has fulfilled all of these additional requirements, a license would be issued to that person and the firm would be registered.

Steps toward Licensing – Operational

After an individual with the firm, branch office or entity has obtained the supervisory license, and firm is registered, then other individuals may pursue licensing at the operational level in any or all of the categories in which the firm is authorized to do business. This would require that they make the necessary appointment to take the exams, which are administered each week. In addition, they need to obtain the list of study materials in preparation for the examinations. A written exam is required to qualify for an operational level license. The appropriately licensed supervisor must countersign operational license applications. Operational licenses may become invalid upon departure of the supervisory license holder from the company or if the operational license holder leaves the company.

Who to Contact

Anyone interested in licensing should contact the Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3694.