

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Division of Pesticide Control
PO Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042
(603) 271-3550

Pesticide Licensing – Commercial Applicator (Not 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. A commercial applicator not for hire is a commercial applicator but, rather than applying pesticides in conjunction with providing services to clients or customers, is applying pesticides to one specific location as part of their employment with a particular entity. An example of a commercial applicator not for hire is a school custodian working for that particular school but applying pesticides on the premises, a golf course superintendent who is applying pesticides on that particular golf course as an employee for that entity, or a maintenance person applying pesticides as part of that persons duties working for a certain industry. 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 home owner type pesticides) or restricted use.

The process for obtaining a commercial not for hire license is somewhat abbreviated from that to obtain a commercial applicator for hire license. An applicant for a commercial applicator not for hire license, with the exception of category F2 Mosquito and Black Fly Control is not required to take an oral examination. Also, there are no requirements for the submittal of certificates showing coverage of liability insurance nor are there requirements for identification of vehicles or registration of the firm. There are some limitations on commercial applicator not for hire licensees in that their license is issued to a person and an entity and their application of pesticides is restricted to the premises of that entity. Holders of commercial applicator not for hire licenses cannot apply pesticides on property other than that of their immediate employer nor can they apply pesticides for clients on a for-hire or contract basis. This is true whether or not they are being paid for the service.

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 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, that person 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

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.

Operational License

Once a business or entity has obtained the supervisory license, 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 desiring to become licensed as a commercial applicator not for hire at the supervisory level should obtain the commercial application, exam application and a listing of study materials in preparation for the examination. Once the applicant has submitted the application forms and the appropriate fees, and has determined the category of licensing needed, he or she should contact the Division of Pesticide Control to make an appointment for the written examination.

Written exams are administered in Concord approximately each week, however, an appointment for the examination is necessary.

After the applicant has successfully completed the examination and has satisfied the licensing requirements, a license would be issued to that person. The license would be issued, jointly, to that person and the entity for who the person is employed.

Steps toward Licensing – Operational

After an individual with the firm or entity has obtained the supervisory license, then other individuals may pursue licensing at the operational level in any or all of the categories in which the entity is authorized to apply pesticides. 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 entity or if the operational license holder leaves the entity of employment.

Who to Contact

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