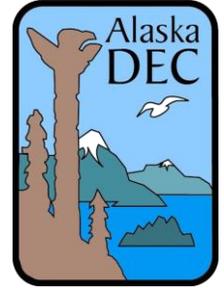


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ON THE SIDELINES

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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Pelleted Rodenticides
Track & Submit CEUs

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Upcoming Changes to Certified Applicator Exam

The purpose of the Certification and Training program is to ensure the competency of certified applicators. To become certified, applicators must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how to handle and apply pesticides safely and correctly.

DEC regularly revises exams as knowledge gaps and needs are identified. We are currently working on some revisions which will be implemented over the next 12 months.

Calculations

Under our current Core Exam, applicators must obtain a passing score on Mathematical Calculations, General Knowledge, and Label Comprehension.

All pesticide applicator categories must be able to perform basic mathematical calculations. However, the specific types of calculations required varies by category.

In an effort to improve our Exams to more specifically address required knowledge, the Calculations Section will be removed from the Core Exam.

Instead, calculations will be more fully addressed in each Category Exam.

State Regulations

DEC tracks the types of compliance problems and violations identified during inspections of certified applicators (see article below).

In recent years most violations have been related to state regulatory requirements, especially precautions for public places and record keeping requirements.

To ensure applicators are knowledgeable about these requirements, a new section on State Regulations will be added to the Core Exam in place of the calculations section. Applicators will still need to pass each section with a minimum score of 70%.



Information on state requirements can be found in Pesticide Regulations (18 AAC 90), and are summarized in the Alaska Core Manual.

2015 Pesticide Inspections and Violations

In the past calendar year, most pesticide violations recorded during use and records inspections were related record keeping requirements, with the exception of one use inspection where multiple violations were committed.

VIOLATIONS

#	Description	Regulation
7	Failure to keep adequate pesticide application records.	18 AAC 90.415(2) and 420
1	Failure to keep pesticide application records for at least two years after each use.	18 AAC 90.420
2	Failure to adequately post written notice prior to application at a public place.	18 AAC 90.630
1	Use of a pesticide in a faulty, careless, or negligent manner.	18 AAC 90.020(4)
1	Use of a pesticide in a manner that might endanger human health and safety, animals, or the environment.	18 AAC 90.020(1)
1	Use of a pesticide in a manner that is inconsistent with labeling instructions.	18 AAC 90.020(5) and 600(1)
1	Failure to safely contain discharge from a pesticide spill.	18 AAC 90.040(a)

#	Description	Regulation
1	Failure to dispose of a pesticide or a pesticide container in accordance with labeling instructions.	18 AAC 90.020(2)
2	Failure to post all required information about pesticide applications, as required by WPS.	18 AAC 90.020 (Compliance with label)
1	Failure to ensure contaminated PPE is not taken home by workers, as required by WPS.	18 AAC 90.020 (Compliance with label)
1	Failure to ensure safety poster is maintained, as required by WPS.	18 AAC 90.020 (Compliance with label)

INSPECTIONS

#	Type	# Violations
9	Use (Non-Agricultural)	9
8	Records/Storage	6
1	RUP Dealer	0
3	Use (Agricultural/WPS)	4



Rodenticide Pellet Safety

In 2008, EPA completed a safety review of rat and mouse poison products. They found that rodenticide pellets in open trays pose a number of risks.



They are very attractive to babies and small children, and have been responsible for thousands of accidental ingestions over the years. Pets are also attracted to the bait, and may consume the pellets. Wildlife can be impacted by rodenticides when they consume rodents killed by the poison, or by direct consumption of the pellets.

For these reasons, EPA has been working to tighten safety standards for rodenticide pellets. Loose rodenticide bait intended for consumer use (one pound or less) can no longer be manufactured. As of January 1, 2015, these products are no longer allowed for sale in Alaska.

Bait blocks and pellets inside of a sealed bait station provide a safer alternative. Encourage clients to dispose of any loose pellets currently on hand or in use.

Use Integrated Pest Management techniques to help control rodents, including sealing any gaps around doors by replacing worn thresholds or weather stripping, installing door sweeps, caulking openings around water pipes, cables, and vents, eliminating food and water sources, use of mechanical and sticky traps, and use of more protective bait station products.

Track and Submit Your CEUs

Taking classes and conferences on pesticides are a great way to expand your knowledge and keep up to date on pesticide issues.

Many of these courses are approved as Continuing Education Units (CEUs), which can be applied towards renewing your pesticide applicator certification.

Please remember to keep a list of CEUs you have attended, and turn in your filled out *Pesticide Applicator CEU Re-Certification Application* **BEFORE** your certification expires.

Once you are no longer certified, renewal is no longer possible. If that happens, you must take and pass the examinations to become certified again.

