

PESTICIDE BUREAU- COMPLIANCE GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) pesticide program oversees the safe and judicious use of pesticides in Iowa. This compliance guidance follows Governor Reynolds' State Public Health Emergency Declaration, dated March 22, 2020, and implements immediately temporary measures in response to the recent disruption in Iowa pesticide programs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance shall expire on December 31, 2020, unless modified by another order or subsequent guidance.

1. All Iowa pesticide applicators holding a valid certification as of December 31, 2019, will retain their certification status through December 31, 2020.
 - a. This temporary relief allows certified pesticide applicators the ability to continue operating under a **current** company license in Iowa without having to immediately submit proof of training or testing.
 - b. All pesticide applicator certifications shall remain on a 3-year certification, including payment of fees and education requirements. Prior to December 31, 2020, applicators will need to renew their certification, including submission of fees for 2020, 2021, and 2022, as well as proof of testing or renewal by Continuing Instruction Course (CIC). Failure to do so will preclude the ability to operate. IDALS is working to procure options for testing and CIC. Those options will be identified in advance of December 31, 2020, in order to allow time for completion.
 - c. Applicators whose certifications expired on December 31, 2019, remain eligible to renew during the 2020 calendar year and do not need to wait until after December 31, 2020, to renew. Applicators will need to verify they have attended training for each certification year or have appropriately tested.
 - d. Applicators that have already renewed their 3-year pesticide certification will pay the same amount in fees to renew their certification as an applicator operating under the extended certification status with a certification expiration date of December 31, 2019.
2. Pesticide company/business license requirements remain unchanged, including requirements for aerial applicator licenses. Certified applicators in category 11 - aerial application must comply with existing requirements under Iowa Administrative Code § 45.22(17).
3. IDALS pesticide applicator test sites have been cancelled through March 31, 2020. IDALS is looking to increase the number of available testing sites once testing activities resume.
4. The deadline to complete private applicator CICs have been extended until September 30, 2020.
5. Commercial 2019 CIC training requirements remain unchanged. The deadline to complete 2019 CIC commercial applicator training was December 31, 2019. The deadline to complete 2020 commercial applicator training is December 31, 2020.

Questions?

Pesticide Bureau email: pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov

Pesticide Bureau phone: (515) 281-8591



6. IDALS continues to review and approve course modifications that allow the virtual delivery of Iowa CICs.
7. Auxin and CIC trainers should contact pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov to notify the Pesticide Bureau of cancellations, postponements, changes in venue, or any alterations in previously approved training. New CIC and Auxin training requests should also contact the same email. Updated information and availability of online and in-person 2020 Auxin training events will be posted here - <https://www.agribiz.org/dicamba-training/>.
8. No one may apply or use any restricted-use pesticides without meeting the certification requirements under Iowa Code 206.
9. Applicators are strongly encouraged to review pesticide labels before mixing, loading, and/or use. Pesticide applicators must follow the Directions for Use on the pesticide label, including statements that may prohibit “use” or “direct supervision”.

Dated: March 26, 2020

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