



## **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 April 2, 2020 (Proclamation), and implements temporary measures in response to the recent disruption in Iowa pesticide programs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance shall apply through the duration of the Proclamation and any further extensions. When the temporary measures under the Proclamation expire, first-time applicators must meet the testing requirements to obtain their certifications, and businesses that apply disinfectants and sanitizers must meet licensing requirements.

1. All Iowa pesticide applicators seeking initial commercial pesticide applicator certification to apply to agricultural land may instead obtain a private applicator certification and operate under the instructions and control of a certified commercial applicator.
  - a. This temporary relief allows certified private pesticide applicators to operate under the instructions and control of a certified commercial applicator, without having to immediately submit proof of commercial agricultural category testing and apply for commercial certification.
  - b. This temporary relief is limited to agricultural land applications. Categories impacted include 1A-Agricultural Weed Control, 1B-Agricultural Insect Control, 1C-Agricultural Crop Disease Control, 1D-Fruit and Vegetable Pest Control, and 1E-Animal Pest Control. The temporary relief does not include aerial, lawn, turf, pest control, or other commercial category applications.
  - c. Activities completed by commercial agricultural handlers for an agricultural land application would also be covered by the private certification and operation under the instructions and control of a certified commercial applicator. This includes work with unopened containers for preparing, mixing, or loading pesticides for agricultural land application by another person, repackaging bulk pesticides or disposing of pesticide-related wastes from these activities.
  - d. All private pesticide applicator certifications shall maintain a 3-year certification as required under Iowa Code § 206.5, including payment of fees and education requirements.
  - e. For initial certification, applicators must pass the private applicator exam and submit a \$15.00 fee to the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship.
  - f. The private applicator exam can be taken online. Examinees must register on IDALS' website at: <https://stateofiowa.seamlessdocs.com/f/PrivatePesticideExamRegistration>.
  - g. The application for a private applicator certification can be completed online at: <https://iowaagriculture.force.com/pesticideapplicator/s/login/>.

### **Questions?**

Pesticide Bureau email: [pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov)

Pesticide Bureau phone: (515) 281-8591



---

Wallace State Office Building • 502 E 9th St, Des Moines, IA 50319 • (515) 281.5321 • [www.iowaagriculture.gov](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov)

- h. Private applicators who were certified as of December 31, 2019, may operate under the instructions and control of a certified commercial applicator for applications to agricultural land.
    - i. Private applicators that have already renewed their 3-year pesticide certification will pay the same amount in fees to renew their certification as an applicator with a certification expiration date of December 31, 2019 (i.e. those operating under the temporary relief extended certification).
  2. The time period for uncertified applicators to work under the direct supervision of a certified applicator is extended from 21-days after initial employment through the duration of the Proclamation and any future extensions.
    - a. Direct supervision means the pesticide application is made by a competent person acting under the instructions of a certified applicator who is physically present and in sight or hearing distance.
    - b. When the time period for temporary relief under the Proclamation expires, first-time applicators must meet the testing requirements to obtain their certifications.
  3. Pesticide commercial company/business license requirements under Iowa Code Chapter 206 are waived for businesses applying general use disinfectant and sanitizer pesticides indoors in areas where humans live, work, or congregate.
    - a. Unlicensed commercial companies/businesses can apply general use disinfectant and sanitizer pesticides indoors for the duration of the Proclamation and any future extensions.
    - b. This waiver does not remove the applicator certification required for use of Restricted-Use Pesticides (RUPs).
    - c. This company/business license waiver does not apply to agricultural, aerial, lawn, turf or pest control applications.
    - d. Company/business license requirements for all other pesticide applications (not involving indoor disinfectant and/or sanitizer use) remain unchanged.
  4. IDALS pesticide applicator test sites are closed at this time. IDALS is working to increase the number of available testing sites once in-person testing resumes.
  5. IDALS continues to review and revise course modifications to allow the virtual delivery of Iowa Continuing Instruction Courses (CICs) for private and commercial pesticide applicators.
  6. No one may apply or use any RUP pesticides without meeting the certification and direct supervision requirements under Iowa Code Chapter 206.
  7. This guidance document does not change pesticide label requirements. 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 the use of personal protective equipment and statements that may prohibit “use” or “direct supervision.”

**Dated: April 13, 2020**

**Questions?**

Pesticide Bureau email: [pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov)

Pesticide Bureau phone: (515) 281-8591