

# Taking the Certified Pesticide Applicator Exam

April 2013



## **Pesticide Control Program**

*Division of  
Environmental Health*

## **Department of Environmental Conservation**

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[http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/  
pest](http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/pest)

Pesticide Applicator Certification is a professional level certification. You will need to study and prepare for the exam to ensure that you have the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a certified pesticide applicator.

### **Getting Ready for the Exam**

- Determine the certification categories that you need by checking the description on the Pesticide program website.  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/pest/CPAStudyMaterials.htm>
- Make sure you have all of the required study materials.
- **STUDY.** The exam is open book. However, you will need to be very familiar with the information. You will **NOT** have time during the exam to look up each answer.

### **Arrange for Your Exam**

- If you are taking a class, the instructor will set up the exam.
- If you are studying on your own, please contact your local Cooperative Extension to arrange for an exam:
  - Anchorage; 786-6300
  - Fairbanks; 474-1530
  - Delta Junction; 895-4215
  - Mat-Su; 745-3360
  - Kenai Peninsula; 262-5824
- If there is no Cooperative Extension office near you, please contact the DEC Pesticide Program to arrange for testing.
- Please notify the proctor ahead of time if you will need any special accommodations.

### **Fees**

- Some proctors may charge a fee for administering the exam.
- DEC requires a \$25 certification fee before your certification will be issued. You will pay this after you pass the Core Exam and at least one Category Exam.

### **Day of Testing**

- Plan on taking 2 ½ hours for the Core Exam and ½ hour per Category Exam.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited in the testing area. Please leave them in your vehicle. (Exception – simple calculators).



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Pesticide Control  
Program

- Bring the following items to the exam:
  - study materials
  - photo ID
  - pen/pencil
  - simple calculator (you may not use your phone calculator)
- You may not leave the testing area until you have completed and turned in your exam. Make sure to take care of restroom breaks and other needs before you begin.
- You may not take any exam materials from the testing area, including exams, attachments, or notes taken during the exam.

## Scoring the Exam

- The Core Exam contains three sections. You must score at least 70% on all three sections to pass the exam.
- You must also score at least 70% on at least one Category Exam to receive certification.
- The length of your certification will depend on your Core Exam score:

Core Exam Score	Certification Duration
90% - 100%	3 years
80%-89%	2 years
70%-79%	1 year

## After the Exam

- Proctors will mail each exam to DEC for grading and processing.
- Please do not call to check on scores unless at least 30 days have passed since your exam.
- If you pass your exams, DEC will send you a letter instructing you to send in your \$25 fee and proof of liability insurance, which are required prior to issuing your certification.
- Once you provide the fee and insurance information, your Certified Pesticide Applicator card will be mailed to you.

## If You Do Not Pass

- If you do not pass your exams, DEC will contact you to discuss your scores.
- The first two times an exam taker fails the Core Exam, they may retake the test after a 30-day waiting period.
- The first two times an exam taker fails a Category Exam, they may retake the test with no waiting period.
- If an exam taker fails either the Core Exam or a Category Exam a third time, they must wait 12 months before attempting the exam again.
- Intentional cheating will result in failure and disqualification from re-taking the certification exam for one year.

