

Using drones to apply pesticides in Oregon:

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT LICENSING

With an increase in questions regarding Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) or drones, being used for pesticide applications, there is a need to communicate the licensing regulations that a UAV pesticide applicator must follow to legally apply pesticides in Oregon.

Note: *It is a violation of Oregon law to apply any pesticide by aircraft (including remotely piloted aircraft, unmanned aircraft system, drones, etc.) unless you are appropriately licensed as an Aerial Pesticide Applicator. This means that someone without an Aerial Pesticide Applicator license (including all other licensed pesticide applicators) cannot make a pesticide application via aircraft in Oregon, even if supervised by a licensed Aerial Pesticide Applicator.*

Licensing and other requirements

ODA REQUIREMENTS:

You need a Commercial Pesticide Applicator (CPA), Public Pesticide Applicator (PPA), Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) or Private Pesticide Applicator (PAL) license AND an Aerial Pesticide Applicator License (APA) from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The CPA (plus associated Commercial Pesticide Operator (CPO) license), PPA, and NPA must also have the appropriate categories.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) REQUIREMENTS:

Note: *all information provided in this document concerning FAA requirements are for information only. You must contact the FAA for exact guidance with their regulations.*

To apply pesticides using a drone, you must also follow all FAA requirements. These requirements may include pilot licensing, drone registration, insurance, waivers, and certifications.

These requirements may vary depending on:

- Your type of employer (e.g., government, private business, etc.)
- The size (weight) of the aircraft.

To obtain the appropriate license and credentials for your aircraft or for more information, go to <https://www.faa.gov/uas>.

Resources

ODA's Pesticide Licensing:
<https://oda.direct/PesticideLicensing>

ODA's Aerial Applicator Licensing:
<https://oda.direct/Aerial-Licensing>

Flight Experience Requirements:
<https://oda.direct/Flight-Req-Advisory>

FAA and UAS: <https://www.faa.gov/uas>

Additional Questions:
ODA Pesticides Program: 503.986.4635
or pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**



How do I obtain an Aerial Pesticide Applicator (APA) License?

As part of the requirements for an APA license, you must

- Pass the Oregon Aerial Applicator's exam;
- Be licensed as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator (CPA), Public Pesticide Applicator (PPA), Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) or Private Pesticide Applicator (PAL);
- Complete 50 hours of flight experience BEFORE you can pursue a license to apply pesticides aerially;
 - » If you are not licensed as an aerial applicator in Oregon, you cannot gain experience by making pesticide applications aerially. You can gain experience by spraying water, fire retardant, applying fertilizer, or another substance to simulate spraying a pesticide. Your flight experience can be from another state. For your flight experience to count, you must be appropriately licensed as a pesticide applicator at the time the flight occurs (for more information see the Flight Experience Requirements link under Resources), and you must appropriately document your experience. Use the *Record Your Experience Hours* ("Time in Service") Form.
- Have the appropriate FAA documentation for the type of equipment being used;
 - » Attest that you have a FAA medical certificate, if one is required by FAA. The medical certificate must be valid through the entire Oregon license period, which is an annual license period;
 - » Have an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate (Part 107);
 - » Have an FAA Certificate of Authorization/Waiver, if applicable (55 lbs. or greater, or multiple unmanned aircraft piloted);
 - » Have an FAA Agricultural Aircraft Operator's Certificate (Part 137) (or operate under a Public Aircraft Operator Certificate of Authorization/Waiver).

How do I maintain an APA License?

Maintain your license (let ODA know of any changes and be sure to pay your annual fee with your application).

Note: As part of licensing requirements, you'll need 10 aerial credits. There are a limited number of ODA-accredited continuing education events offering aerial credits, so don't wait until late in your certification period to fulfill your license requirements. Certified APAs have the entire certification period (up to 5 years) to earn their 10 aerial credits, and they can earn them all in a single calendar year, if necessary. To search ODA-accredited continuing education events, go to <https://oda.direct/PestRecertClasses>. If you do not earn enough credits, you must retest to renew your license after your current certification period.

Additional notes:

- For the time period when Commercial Pesticide Operators (CPOs) are engaged in the application of pesticides by aircraft, the CPOs must also supply evidence of the issuance of a public liability policy of insurance that identifies the specific aircraft to which it applies.
- A licensed Aerial Pesticide Applicator who is applying pesticides as a Public Pesticide Applicator (PPA) is limited to make aerial applications only to lands they are authorized to apply pesticides to from the ground.