



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR (NPA) LICENSE

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DO I NEED A NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE?

The Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) license with the appropriate license categories is required for:

1. individuals (except government employees) who apply, use, or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) on property they or their employer owns or leases for a purpose other than the production of an agricultural commodity or forest crop – examples include: employees of golf courses, wood treatment facilities, wineries that fumigate wine barrels/corks, businesses that treat purchased agricultural commodities; and
2. private school employees or owners who apply or supervise the application of any pesticide to their own private school campus, as defined in ORS 634.700.

Alternatively, you may instead utilize your Commercial Pesticide Applicator license with the appropriate license categories if you meet each of the conditions described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 603-057-0190). In this case, your employer must also be licensed as a Commercial Pesticide Operator with the appropriate license categories (more information is provided in this document, below).

DOES THE EMPLOYER OF A LICENSED NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR NEED TO BE LICENSED AS A PESTICIDE OPERATOR?

No. The employer (business) of a Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator is not required to be licensed as a pesticide operator. This does not change the existing requirement of Oregon law for employers of Commercial Pesticide Applicators to be licensed as Commercial Pesticide Operators.

I AM CURRENTLY LICENSED AS A COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR. CAN I KEEP USING MY CURRENT LICENSE?

If you meet all the conditions described in Oregon rule (OAR 603-057-0190), you may utilize your Commercial Pesticide Applicator (CPA) license with the appropriate license categories in place of a Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) license. However, your employer must also be licensed as a Commercial Pesticide Operator (CPO) with the appropriate license categories.

This will result in additional licensing fee costs for the CPO license. However, for those who apply pesticides on both their employer's property and their customer's property, this can reduce the total number of licenses needed, resulting in fewer licensing fees and less complexity (*i.e.*, CPO and CPA licenses; versus CPO, CPA and NPA licenses).

OAR 603-057-0190

License Equivalency Provision for Noncommercial Pesticide Use

(1) Pursuant to ORS 634.006(12), an appropriately licensed commercial applicator is not required to additionally obtain and maintain a noncommercial applicator license to use, apply, or supervise the use of restricted-use or highly toxic pesticides to land or property owned or leased by the licensed commercial pesticide applicator or their employer if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The individual applies or otherwise uses pesticides only in the license categories listed on the individual's commercial applicator license;

(b) The individual applies or otherwise uses pesticides only in the course of their employment with a licensed pesticide operator; and

(c) The licensed pesticide operator prepares and maintains the records, and submits the reports, required of pesticide operators by ORS 634.146 and OAR 603-057-0130.

(2) This rule shall not apply to individuals who perform the work, duties or responsibilities of a private applicator or a public applicator.

CAN I USE A NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE TO APPLY RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDES TO HARVESTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES?

In general, this depends on who produced the agricultural commodity and who owns it. Pesticide applications made by private school employees/owners to their private school campus are not addressed here. For other unique circumstances not reflected in this answer, please reach out to the ODA Pesticides Program.

The Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator license is required for individuals who apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs) on property they or their employer own or lease for a purpose other than the production of an agricultural commodity or forest crop. This includes applications of RUPs, by the owner or their employees, to agricultural commodities they have purchased on land they own or lease.

However, if the grower or their employees apply an RUP to an agricultural commodity they produced and own, the Private applicator license would be required, instead. Note: the Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator license specifically excludes pesticide uses already covered by a Private Applicator license, which covers RUP use in the production of an agricultural commodity or forest crop.

If the agricultural commodity is not owned by the pesticide applicator or their employer, then the applicator must be licensed as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator and their employer (*i.e.*, the business) must be licensed as a Commercial Pesticide Operator.

HOW DO I OBTAIN THE NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE?

Beginning on November 17, 2023, individuals seeking to perform pesticide activities covered by the Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) license can apply for this license using forms available on the ODA website at <https://oda.direct/PesticideForms>.

To qualify for an NPA license, you must be at least 18 years of age and pass the Laws and Safety exam and at least one appropriate* category exam. You can find study material for exams (<https://oda.direct/ExamsStudyMaterials>) and information about scheduling exams (<https://oda.direct/TakingPesticideExams>) on the ODA website.

Alternatively, certified Commercial and Public Pesticide Applicators with an appropriate* license category, and certified and licensed Pesticide Consultants with the Demonstration & Research license category, qualify to apply for the NPA license without needing to take additional exams.

Please submit a completed application with the license fee to the secure fax number or mailing address listed on the form and allow a minimum of 2-4 weeks for processing. A printed license will be mailed to you. However, you are officially licensed when your license is listed in our online database: <https://oda.direct/PestLicenseStatus>.

*Note: Only certain license categories are permitted for the NPA license (see next question for more information).

WHAT LICENSE CATEGORIES ARE AVAILABLE TO A NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR?

The license categories that can be added to a Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) license are listed in the table below. Some license categories are only available to private school employees or owners who apply or supervise the application of any pesticide to their own private school campus (as defined in ORS 634.700). To add a license category, you must pass the appropriate category exam.

Excluding employees and owners of private schools, licensed NPAs who wish to apply restricted use pesticides for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity or forest crop on land or property that they or their employer owns must obtain a Private Applicator license. The school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) law in Oregon does not permit licensed Private Applicators to make pesticide applications to a school campus.

License Categories – All NPA License Holders	License Categories - Private Schools Only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic • Demonstration & Research • Industrial, Institutional, Health, and Structural (IIHS): General Pest • IIHS: Moss Control • IIHS: Space Fumigation • IIHS: Structural Pest • IIHS: Wood Treatment • Marine Fouling Organism • Ornamental & Turf: Herbicide • Ornamental & Turf: Insecticide/Fungicide • Public Health • Right-of-Way • Seed Treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: Herbicide • Agriculture: Insecticide/Fungicide • Agriculture: Livestock Pest • Agriculture: Vertebrate Pest • Forest Pest Control • School IPM

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO TAKE EXAMS TO QUALIFY FOR A NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE?

If you do not need your NPA license until 2024, you may consider taking your exams on or after November 17, 2023. This will allow you to be issued the maximum certification period, which is the 5 calendar-year period during which you can apply annually for an NPA license. By default, NPA license applications received in 2023 will not be processed until early January of 2024.

If you need your NPA license right away, you can take your exams anytime in 2023 and submit your application starting November 17, 2023. Please let the ODA know your intentions by checking the box on the first page of the license application form. Your certification period will be the remainder of 2023 plus four years.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR A NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR (NPA) LICENSE?

The Oregon Department of Agriculture will begin accepting license applications for the NPA license starting on November 17, 2023. Please do not submit applications for the NPA license prior to this date.

CAN A LICENSED NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR SUPERVISE PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS MADE BY THEIR EMPLOYEES OR CO-WORKERS?

A licensed Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) with the appropriate license categories may supervise pesticide applications or other use performed by a licensed Pesticide Apprentice or licensed Immediately Supervised Trainee. The requirements for supervision of licensed Pesticide Apprentices and licensed Immediately Supervised Trainees by licensed NPAs are the same as when supervised by licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicators.

In brief, the supervising NPA is responsible for the actions and training of the licensed Pesticide Apprentice or licensed Immediately Supervised Trainee that is applying the pesticide. The licensed Pesticide Apprentice or licensed Immediately Supervised Trainee may apply pesticides only in the categories listed on the supervisor's NPA license.

Pesticide Apprentices can perform pesticide application activities when their licensed supervisor is not physically present. However, the licensed supervisor must be reasonably available to the licensed Pesticide Apprentice for any needed consultation or further direction (e.g., cell phone, 2-way radio).

For Immediately Supervised Trainees, their licensed supervisor must be physically on-site during the pesticide application and available at the specific point of pesticide use within a time-period of no more than five minutes.

WHAT ARE THE PESTICIDE APPLICATION RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS?

The pesticide application recordkeeping requirements for Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators is the same as for Commercial Pesticide Operators. However, the Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator is the person required to create and maintain these records for each pesticide application they make under their license. For more information about recordkeeping requirements, please go to <https://oda.direct/Recordkeeping>.

HOW DO I MAINTAIN MY NONCOMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE?

The requirements to maintain a Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) license are the same as for a Commercial Pesticide Applicator license.

When you initially pass the minimum number of required exams to qualify for a noncommercial license, you are issued a certification period of up to five calendar years. During each calendar year of this 5-year certification period, you are eligible to renew your annual NPA license.

To renew your license thereafter, you need to become certified again (*i.e.*, recertified). This is accomplished by earning the required number of pesticide credits (*i.e.*, CEUs) by attending ODA-accredited continuing education trainings, or by retaking and passing each required exam.

To recertify by attending continuing education trainings, Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators must earn a total of 40 pesticide credits (of any type) during their certification period. A maximum of 15 credits can be awarded per calendar year. These pesticide credits can be awarded anytime during a certification period, even if a license has not yet been issued or is expired. ODA-accredited continuing education trainings can be found using the following database: <https://oda.direct/PestRecertClasses>.



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