



## Environmental Health and Safety Office

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### PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE APPLICATION SAFETY GUIDE

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1	October, 2008	Initial <i>Pesticide and Herbicide Application Safety Guide</i>

#### A. SUMMARY

The purpose of this Guide is to explain certification requirements for employees who apply pesticides on George Mason University property. This guide also addresses the registration, use, and storage of pesticides and general procedures that should be observed during application to prevent exposure and protect the environment. This Guide is based upon Commonwealth of Virginia regulation 2 VAC 20-40 and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards 40 CFR Parts 150-189.

#### B. SCOPE

This Guide applies to all George Mason University employees who use pesticides as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia and describes the minimum requirements for certification, application, labeling, storage, and record keeping that must be observed when using pesticides. A pesticide is defined by Commonwealth of Virginia Regulation 2 VAC 20-40-10 as;

“Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any insects, rodents, fungi, bacteria, weeds, or other forms of plant or animal life”.

#### C. RESPONSIBILITIES

All George Mason University employees must be certified as a Certified Commercial Applicator or Registered Technician by the Commonwealth of Virginia before they may apply any pesticide regardless of quantity, concentration, manufacturer, frequency, or application area. Employees must:

- Obtain, maintain, and observe the restrictions placed upon the certification they hold.
- Comply with this Guide and any further safety recommendations provided by supervisors, the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS), and the pesticide manufacturer.
- Contact your supervisor or EHS with questions regarding pesticide application and safety.
- Report pesticide exposures and spills to your supervisor and seek medical treatment when necessary.

## D. EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION

In order to become certified you must first pass one or more exams determined by the pesticides used and the environment in which they will be applied. All persons must pass the core examination, “Applying Pesticides Correctly”. Additional exams may be required depending upon the type of pesticides used and their application.

**Registered Technician Certification:** The Registered Technician certification is the first level of certification. It is obtained by passing the 50 question multiple choice “Registered Technician Exam”. In order for apply to take the exam, applicants must first:

- Receive 20-hours of Office of Pesticide Services approved training consisting of a study and review of all the material contained within the most current edition of the “Core Manual – Applying Pesticides Correctly”. Instructions on how to obtain a Core Manual are provided below.
- Receive 20 hours of on-the-job instruction, under the supervision of a Certified Commercial Applicator, in the safe and proper handling, mixing, and application of pesticides that will normally be used.
- Submit a Pesticide Registered Technician Application (see below)
- Receive training within six months of submitting an application.

Applications, instructions, and submission information may be downloaded and printed from the following website: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdffiles/rtechapp.pdf>

All George Mason University employees are exempt from application and certification fees. Employees will receive a Notice of Authorization if they are eligible to take the Registered Technician Exam. Employees must take the exam within 90 days of notification. Tests may be taken at regional DMV Customer Service Centers. Certificates will be issued to candidates with passing scores (76 percent or above) within seven days.

**Certified Commercial Applicator:** Only those employees who have held a Registered Technician certification and worked as a *Registered Technician* for one year or more are eligible to become *Certified Commercial Applicator*. There are two separate applications for the Commercial Applicator certificate; one for new applicants, and another for applicants that previously held a certificate and it is expired or need to renew a certificate.

New Application: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdffiles/comappa.pdf>

Retake, Reinstate, or Recertify: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdffiles/comappb.pdf>

All George Mason University employees are exempt from application and certification fees. Employees will receive a Notice of Authorization if they are eligible to take the Certified Commercial Applicator Exam. Employees must take the exam within 90 days of notification. Tests may be taken at regional DMV Customer Service Centers. Certificates will be issued to candidates with passing scores (76 percent or above) within seven days.

**Additional Certification:** Additional certifications may be obtained by passing exams such as “Turf Pest Control”, “Aquatic Pest Control”, or “Ornamental Pest Control”. Additional certification may be required based upon your activities. The following website provides specific information on how to obtain study materials, apply for a certificate, and how to locate and schedule a test(s).

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/categories.shtml>

## **E. EXAM PREPARATION AND MANUALS**

Educational resources, manuals, and test preparation information is available from Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs, Pesticide Applicator Assistance web page. This website provides technical assistance as well as information on how to prepare for an exam, how to obtain and maintain certification, and how to order pesticide applicator manuals.

[https://www.vtpp.ext.vt.edu/index.php/html/main/applicator\\_info.html](https://www.vtpp.ext.vt.edu/index.php/html/main/applicator_info.html)

## **F. RECORD KEEPING**

Virginia regulations require that commercial applicators keep records of pesticide applications. Records for **all** pesticides applied (both general and restricted-use products) must be kept by Certified Commercial Applicators. These records must be maintained for a period of two years following the pesticide use. Commercial Applicator records must contain the following information:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the property owner.
2. Address/location of the application site, if different from property owner.
3. Name and certification number of the person making or supervising the application.
4. Date of application (day, month, and year).
5. Type of plants, crop, animals, or sites treated.
6. Principal pests to be controlled.
7. Acreage, area, or number of plants or animals treated.
8. Identification of pesticide used:
  - Brand name or common name of pesticide, and
  - EPA product registration number.
9. Amount of pesticide concentrate and amount of diluent (water, etc.) applied by weight or volume, to the area/sites defined in #6.
10. Type of application equipment used.

*Registered Technicians* and *Certified Commercial Applicators* must submit a current certification to EHS for record keeping purposes. Contact EHS for information on current certificate holders and additional information regarding certification, pesticide application, and safety issues.

## **G. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

For additional information please visit the following websites:

Commonwealth of Virginia Agricultural and Consumer Services, Office of Pesticide Services:  
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/index.shtml>

Virginia Tech's Pesticide Programs: <https://www.vtpp.ext.vt.edu/index.php/welcome/>

The information contained in this Guide is not inclusive of all OSHA regulations. Please contact Environmental Health and Safety Office at (703) 993-8448 or visit [www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov) for more information regarding workplace hazards, safety precautions, and regulations.