



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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Licensing requirement and related information

The Commercial/Non-Commercial Pest Control Section is responsible for administering the “Arkansas Pest Control Law” (Act 488 of 1975, as amended) and the Rules promulgated there under. The Arkansas Pest Control Law and Rules require any person who, for compensation, engages in pest control work as defined in the law to have a valid license or certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture for that purpose. The definition of a pest control service is as follows:

““Pest control service” means any person who, for compensation, gives advice or engages in work to prevent, control, or repel arthropods, mammals, birds, reptiles, or wood-damaging or wood-destroying organisms that may invade or infest homes, other buildings, or similar structures and shall include arthropods, mammals, birds, reptiles, weeds, and plant diseases that may invade, infest, or infect shade trees, shrubs, lawns, turf, and pecan groves. This term shall also include any person who issues letters of clearance, or who shall solicit such work in any manner, but the term shall not be construed to include agricultural crops from planting to harvest other than those mentioned above;”

The Pest Control Law and Rules further requires that any person who uses a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) be licensed or work under the supervision of someone licensed or certified by the Plant Board for such work. Pesticides that are RUP’s will have a product label that should clearly identify it as such.

The Pest Control Law does not require property owners who perform pest control work on their own property to have a license or certificate unless they wish to use RUP’s.

The Pest Control Law does not require employees of businesses who perform pest control work on the property of their employer to have a license or certificate unless they wish to use RUP’s.

Pest control licenses and certificates are issued on an annual basis. The licenses and certificates are valid for one state fiscal year (July – June) and must be renewed prior to July 1 each year.

We offer 10 different classifications of pest control license or certificates. The type of pest control service a person or business wishes to provide will dictate the classification or classifications of license or certificate needed.

Commercial licenses are required for a business and/or person to engage in pest control services as defined by Arkansas Pest Control Law. A License Holder license is required for a business to provide pest control services. To be eligible for a License Holder license the business must employ individuals licensed as commercial operators. The licensed operators must oversee the pest control services provided by the business and supervise employees performing pest control services, who have been registered as agents with the Arkansas State Plant Board to perform said work.

License Holder business license Classifications 1 (Termites and Other Structural Pest) and 2 (Household Pest and Rodent Control) require bond and insurance coverage before being eligible to receive the license. License Holder business license Classification 3 (General Fumigation) requires insurance before being eligible to receive the license.

Un-licensed employees of pest control businesses (agents) performing pest control services must be registered, by the business, as agents. The employees must be on-the-job trained by the businesses licensed applicators and pass an Arkansas Department of Agriculture administered exam to be eligible for agent registration. The agent's exam fee is \$30, and this fee includes initial registration if the agent passes the exam. The License Holder license fee is based on the number of registered agents employed by the business and can range from \$100 annually to \$500 annually.

To become eligible for a commercial applicators license or non-commercial applicators certificate an individual must pass an exam related to the specific desired classification plus a Basic Core exam. Exams are offered bi-monthly and on-line at an additional proctoring fee from Everblue of approximately \$30.00 for each exam taken on-line. Online exams are offered year-round and give you the option to test on your schedule. In-house testing for Classifications 1, 2, & 3 are offered on the second Monday of all odd months. In-house testing for Classifications 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 are offered on the second Monday of all even months.

Exam fees are \$100 per classification (Basic – no charge). People wishing to take a pest control exam must pre-register by submitting an online exam application and/or print and mail a paper application and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Accounting Department must receive it. The application forms and related exam fees must be submitted 5 working days prior to the examination date. Testing forms and study material can be obtained on our website. Commercial operators licensed in Classifications 1 (Termite and Other Structural Pest) and 2 (Household Pest and rodent Control) require prior experience of at least one year and/or 2 years of college credits from an accredited college/university with at least one basic course in entomology before being eligible to take the exam.

Non-commercial certificates are issued to individuals performing pest services for an employer or Federal, State, and local government. People who are issued a certificate are restricted to performing pest service only for the employer. If you fail any category specific exam you must wait 14 days before being eligible to retest.

Commercial Operator license annual fees are \$150 for one classification, \$250 for two classifications, and a \$300 maximum for three or more classifications. Non-commercial certificate fees are \$70 regardless of the number of non-commercial categories held by one individual.

Licensed Operator is an individual that has taken and passed Plant Board administered exams which qualify the individual to perform pest control services and oversee/supervise technicians performing pest control services for a License Holder. Licensed operators must either be a License Holder or be employed by a License Holder and work under the bond and insurance coverage of the License Holder (when required).

Agent is an individual employed by a License Holder for the purpose of performing pest control service work. Agents must be trained on-the-job by the License Holder and pass an Arkansas Department of Agriculture administered exam that qualifies the individual for agent registration. Agents work under the supervision of the businesses Licensed Operator.

Non-Commercial Applicator is an individual that has taken and passed Plant Board administered exams which qualifies the individual to perform pest control work. These applicators are issued a certificate (not a license) and are restricted from performing commercial (for compensation) pest control services. Non-commercial Applicators can only perform pest control work for their employer on the employer's property. These individuals typically work for government entities, food related facilities, property management firms, golf courses, etc.

Currently, we issue applicator licenses or certificates for the following classifications of pest control work:

Commercial Applicator License (Licensed Operator):

A. Structural Pest Control

1. Termite and Other (Wood Destroying) Structural Pest Control
2. Household Pest and Rodent Control
3. General Fumigation

B. Ornamental Pest Control

4. Tree and Turf Pest Control
5. Weed Control
6. Golf Course Pest Control

Non-Commercial Applicator Certificate (see restrictions in Section VIII of Arkansas Pest Control Law and Regulations):

A. Structural Pest Control

7. Non-Commercial Pest Control
8. Non-Commercial Fumigation

B. Ornamental Pest Control

9. Non-Commercial Tree & Turf Pest Control

10. Non-Commercial Golf Course Pest Control

Regulatory Oversight & Inspections

The Pest Control Program performs various inspections related to Pest Control Companies in Arkansas. Inspections can vary from termite work performed on structures - applications performed on lawns and golf courses - fumigations - vehicles used for making applications - facilities where pest control operations are located – and more.

Investigations are conducted if violations of Pest Control Law and Regulation are suspected and/or reported.

The Pest Control Program has a strong commitment toward consumer protection. For most Arkansans, their homes are the largest financial investments of their lives. Due to the destructive nature of termites and the complexities involved with termite treatments, the most common types of inspections performed relate to termites and termite treatment methods. If a property owner is concerned about their termite treatment, they can request an inspection (at no cost) by contacting one of the Agricultural Inspector/Supervisors.

It is a violation of State and Federal law to handle, store, use, or dispose of a pesticide in a manner that is inconsistent with the product labeling. Pest Control Program inspectors routinely inspect pest control facilities, operators, vehicles, equipment, etc. to ensure compliance.

Anyone that suspects a possible misuse of a pesticide should contact the Arkansas Department of Agriculture at 501-225-1598 and ask for the Pest Control Program.

The Pesticide Section of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture also licenses Commercial and Non-Commercial applicators performing work governed by the Arkansas Pesticide Use and Application Act and Regulations. Agricultural, forestry, aquatic, and public health related pesticide work is licensed by the Pesticide Section. Individuals who wish to make pesticide applications should reference both laws to determine which is applicable.

For More Information, Contact the Pest Control Program:

Questions concerning examinations: pestcontrol@arkansas.gov

Questions concerning license issuance or agent registration: pestcontrol@arkansas.gov

Questions concerning records reporting requirements: pestcontrol@arkansas.gov

To request an inspection or report a possible violation: pestcontrol@arkansas.gov

To determine if an individual or firm is licensed, please send an email to: pestcontrol@arkansas.gov

Any questions or concerns not mentioned above: pestcontrol@arkansas.gov

Contact Information:

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