



# Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association

## GROWER ADVISORY

### Pesticide Licensing and Certification

The pesticide licensing and certification program is intended to educate applicators in the legal, safe, and effective use of chemical control for agricultural pests. The pesticide bureau conducts the testing, licensing, re-certification and auditing of pesticide applicators in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The department of Agricultural Resources issues four types of licenses. The type of license you need depends on the variety of pesticides you handle and where these pesticides will be applied. This bulletin will address the varying needs of those who apply, handle, or supervise the use of pesticides and recommend the appropriate license. Moreover, this bulletin can be used as a guide for how to renew your license upon expiration and how to maintain it with certification credits.

## Who needs which license?

The four types of licenses are as follows:

1. Commercial Applicator License (core)
2. Private Certification
3. Commercial Certification
4. Dealer License



#### Choose #1 Commercial Applicator License

If you have never had a license before or if you did it was more than five years ago, and you plan on using pesticides on the property of another for hire or as part of your current job duties on the property of your employer or property leased by your employer.

#### Choose #2 Private Certification

If you are a grower or farmer and you plan to use state or federally restricted use pesticides on your property or that of your employer or rented by your employer for the purpose of raising agricultural commodities i.e. cranberries.

#### Choose #3 Commercial Certification

If you have held an applicator (core) license or certification for two or more years either in Massachusetts or another state for at least two years in the past five, and you plan to use restricted use pesticides on the property of another for hire.

#### Choose #4 Dealer License

If you plan to sell restricted use pesticides

Study materials for these exams can be found at the UMASS Amherst bookstore and can be obtained by filling out an order form found at: [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides)

## Select the Appropriate Category License or Certification

In addition, when obtaining your license be sure to choose the appropriate category, cranberry, and note that if you grow other crops you may need to select an additional category. For example, if you have blueberries you should be certified in the small fruit category as well. You will have to take separate tests for each category. When maintaining your license and certification you must accrue the needed contact hours for each category. If a workshop can be applied to either your cranberry license/certification or another category you may only apply these credits to one category or another, not both.

## Obtaining and Maintaining Your License or Certification

You can check official exam results on the pesticide bureau web site. Please note that passing the exam doesn't equate to certification. Upon passing you should receive an application which must be signed and mailed with the appropriate fee and proof of insurance if (if required). The results of the exam are valid for one year from the date of being notified. Take into account a few weeks for processing when scheduling your exam. Upon receipt, **state law requires that you carry the license at all times while using pesticides.**

As of September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003 the Massachusetts pesticide board voted to end all reciprocal training. Meaning that individuals with licenses and/or certifications in other states will not be able to work in Massachusetts without being re-examined by the commonwealth. This also applies retroactively and individuals with licenses based on reciprocity must be re-examined.

In addition to renewing the annual certification you must be re-licensed/re-certified after a period of **three years** upon issuance of your license. By choice of the licensee you may either choose to retake the exam at the end of the three years or maintain your certification through contact hours. The Cooperative Extension Service, CCCGA, UMASS Cranberry Station, other industry groups and various professional organizations offer contact hours in the form of contact hours for the varying licenses and certifications are displayed in the chart below.

Dates and locations for contact hours can be found at the MDAR website or by contacting CCCGA.

### What to do if you're audited

MDAR will submit audits to all applicators in the third and final year of their licensure/certification. Responses to these audits must include a copy of the certificates you were given upon completion of the course. **Do not send the department your only copy.** A response date for the audit will be given on the audit itself.

The information in this guide is provided by the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association as a service to its members. The information represents our interpretation of the state requirements and by no means is intended to act as a substitute for reading and following the specific regulatory requirements.

The Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act and  
Standards, Requirements and Procedures for the Certification and Licensing of Pesticide Applicators

**Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 132B**  
**333 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 9.00, 10.00**

### For more information, please contact:

Taryn LaScola, Director  
MDAR Crop & Pest Services  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114-2151  
Phone: 617-626-1776  
[Taryn.LaScola@state.ma.us](mailto:Taryn.LaScola@state.ma.us)

Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association  
265 D South Meadow Rd.  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
Phone: 508-866-7878  
[info@cranberries.org](mailto:info@cranberries.org)