OHIO PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION & TRAINING UPDATES

FAQs

WHY ARE THE RULES CHANGING?

Ohio updated its pesticide rules to match new EPA standards. These changes were required by House Bill 96 and House Bill 10.

WHEN DO THE CHANGES GO INTO EFFECT?

Most updates take effect in late 2026 and into 2027. Exam standards will continue to be updated through 2032.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

Anyone who applies pesticides, supervises applicators, buys or uses restricted-use pesticides, or runs a pesticide business.

More Information

ID REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMS

Must be 18 or older and show a valid government-issued ID.
A religious exemption process is available.

DEFINITION OF RESTRICTED-USE PESTICIDE (RUP) "USE"

RUP "Use" now includes mixing, loading, applying, supervising, transporting or storing open containers, cleaning equipment, and disposal.

TRAINED SERVICEPERSON

Someone who applies pesticides under the direct supervision of a commercial applicator after completing required training.

NON-CERTIFIED APPLICATOR

A non-licensed person who uses restricted-use pesticides under the direct supervision of a commercial or private applicator.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

General-Use Products: training before first exposure.
Restricted-Use Products: training before first exposure/use plus annual refresher. Most must be 18+ (16+ allowed in some on-farm situations).

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors must ensure proper PPE, label access, site-specific instructions, daily equipment checks, communication, and be on-site when required by the label.

SUPERVISOR DISTANCE AWAY

Supervisors can be up to 2 hours or 60 miles away, but they still must provide direct supervision and respond when needed.

TRAINING RECORD REQUIREMENTS

Records must include printed name, signature, training date, trainer, and materials used. If the non-certified applicator is licensed without the proper use category on their license, the records must contain their license #, license expiration date, and issuing state. Records must be kept for 3 years.

COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR RECORDKEEPING ADDITIONS

Must now include the applicator's license ID number and updated crop/site details per federal standards.

PESTICIDE DEALER RECORDKEEPING ADDITIONS

Dealers must record applicator address, license expiration, exemption info, invoice numbers, and retention of invoices.

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