



The following includes general information about pesticide licensing, with examples highlighting the Public Pesticide Applicator (PPA) License, specifically. In situations where Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) are not being applied, machine-powered devices are not being used, AND the application is not taking place on a school campus, a Public Pesticide Applicator license is not required. Public entities themselves (with some minor exceptions) are not required to be licensed in any circumstance – there is no license available for them.

PESTICIDE LICENSE TYPES

Individuals and businesses must be licensed by ODA prior to performing certain pesticide-related activities. The license type that a pesticide applicator needs often depends on their employer. For example, private applicators are employed by farms, or own/lease the farm; commercial applicators are employed by businesses (pesticide operator) that apply pesticides to other's property; and public applicators are employed by federal, state, or other governmental bodies.

Additionally, some license types also have license categories, which may limit or specify the type of pesticides that can be used and/or locations where pesticides can be applied.

PUBLIC PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE

- You must be employed by a federal, state, or local governmental body as described in ORS 634.116(12).
- Allows you to apply and supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides.
- Allows you to apply and supervise the application of pesticides applied with machine-powered application equipment.
- Pesticide application and supervision of use is limited to the categories/subcategories on your license.
- Allows you to tell someone how to use a restricted-use pesticide or which restricted-use pesticide will work best (limited to categories on your license).
- May supervise a licensed pesticide apprentice or immediately supervised trainee.
- **Exam required** – Laws and safety and at least one category exam. Exception: if you are seeking a public pesticide applicator license with the marine fouling organism license category, at this time only the category exam is required.

LICENSE CATEGORIES

- Public Pesticide Applicators may only apply specific types of pesticides to the sites that are covered by their license categories. For example, licensed public pesticide applicators that apply herbicides to turf or ornamental planting sites need the Ornamental & Turf: Herbicide license category.

HOW TO GET A LICENSE

Public Pesticide Applicator

1. Pass the "Laws and Safety" exam, plus at least one [license category](#) exam (see exception for marine fouling below).
 - a. Please see [study material](#) and [exam scheduling](#) pages.
2. You must be at least 18 years of age, and be employed by a state, federal, or local government body (as defined in ORS 634.116(12)).
3. After you pass the necessary exams to qualify for a license, ODA will email you a semi-completed license application form.
4. Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing.
5. A printed license will be mailed to you. However, you are officially licensed when your license is listed in our [online database](#)

Basic Overview of Select* Pesticide Licenses in Oregon

LICENSE TYPE	BASIC REQUIREMENTS & LIMITATIONS ²	REQUIRED EXAMS	CREDIT REQUIREMENTS ³	LICENSING FEES	LICENSE PERIOD	CERTIFICATION PERIOD
Public Pesticide Applicator (PPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed by a public entity Currently doesn't need a license if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not applying RUPs; not applying to a school campus; and not using machine-powered equipment. If licensed, can also supervise the application or use of RUPs 	Laws & Safety + at least 1 Category	40	\$50.00 (base) + \$7.50 per additional category	Annual	Up to 5 years
Commercial Pesticide Applicator (CPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be employed by a Commercial Pesticide Operator (CPO) For a person who applies or supervises the use of ANY type of pesticide to the land or property of another (specific limited exemptions for certain activities relating to farmer/ forestland owners and landscaping businesses if all specified conditions met and not an RUP) 	Laws & Safety + at least 1 Category	40	\$50.00 (base) + \$7.50 per additional. category	Annual	Up to 5 years
Commercial Pesticide Operator (CPO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows a business to use pesticides on someone else's property. License categories must match the type of pesticide work that will be done by the CPAs. The business must show proof of insurance for pesticide applications. This license cannot be issued to a public entity. 	None	N/A	\$90.00 (base) + \$15.00 per additional category	Annual	N/A
Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies or supervises the use of RUPs to land owned or leased by the applicator or their employer in non-agricultural settings Applies ANY pesticide to the campus of a private school employee or owner 	Laws & Safety + at least 1 Category	40	\$50.00 (base) + \$7.50 per additional category	Annual	Up to 5 years
Private Pesticide Applicator (PAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies or supervises the use of RUPs to land owned or leased by the applicator or their employer for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities or forest crops 	Private Applicator Exam	16 (4 must be Core)	\$25.00	Up to 5 years	Up to 5 years
Aerial Pesticide Applicator (APA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required for individuals who apply ANY pesticides via aircraft (includes drones). Must also be licensed as either a Private (PAL), Noncommercial (NPA), Commercial (CPA), or Public (PPA) Applicator, as appropriate. 	Aerial Applicator Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial (w/ PPA, CPA, or NPA): 40 (10 must be Aerial) Aerial (w/ PAL): 16 (4 must be Core) + 10 Aerial 	\$50.00	Annual	Up to 5 years
Apprentice License (APL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows you to apply pesticides while supervised by a licensed commercial (CPA), noncommercial (CPA), or public pesticide (PPA) applicator. Supervisor does not need to be on-site but must be reasonably available for consultation with the licensed apprentice (e.g., phone or 2-way radio). 	Laws & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 (4 must be Core)* 	\$50.00	Annual	Not a certified applicator
Immediately Supervised Trainee (IST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows you to apply pesticides while supervised by a licensed commercial (CPA), noncommercial (NPA), or public (PPA) pesticide applicator. Supervisor must be located on-site at all times during the pesticide application, and available at the specific point of pesticide use within five minutes. Pesticide applications may only be made under the categories/subcategories on your supervisor's license. 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	\$50.00	Annual	Not a certified applicator

²This provides a basic overview – the licensing requirements are more nuanced, and the ODA recommends that anyone actually seeking a license consult the ODA website or speak with a licensing specialist.

³If an applicator does not earn the required credits during their certification period, they will have to retest. Each credit is equivalent to 50 minutes of accredited instruction.

*Pesticide Apprentices are not certified applicators, but can renew their license without retesting by earning continuing education credits during their annual licensing period.

*Table does not include Pesticide Dealer and Pesticide Consultant license information.