

# VERMONT PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION GUIDE

Anyone in the state of Vermont who uses, supervises, recommends, or sells pesticides and/or trains Worker Protection Standard handlers/workers may be required to take and pass the CORE exam and all appropriate category exams to become certified. Certification is administered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to ensure that pesticides are used in a proper and legal manner.

- Certification and exams are administered exclusively by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) <https://go.uvm.edu/vaafm-pesticide>
- Vermont uses study manuals from Cornell University (New York) for most categories.
- The following information is a general guide subject to change. Contact VAAFAM for details.

## First check the flowcharts:

- DO I NEED TO BE CERTIFIED? <https://go.uvm.edu/needcert>
- WHICH CERTIFICATION DO I NEED? <https://go.uvm.edu/whichcert>

## → Everyone needs to take the CORE exam

1. Acquire a copy of the Northeast CORE Manual 3rd edition
  - Order from <https://go.uvm.edu/cornell-core>
  - *Older editions are not recommended for study*
2. Download inserts from <https://go.uvm.edu/vaafm-types>
  - Chapter 16: State Laws and Regs INTRO PAGE
  - Summary of the VT Rule for Control of Pesticides
  - The VT Rule for Control of Pesticides (FULL COPY)
  - Pollinators and Pesticides - VT CORE Insert
  - Private applicators will also need to study the WPS How-to-Comply Manual
3. Study the CORE manual and inserts on your own. Optional study aids include:
  - In-person Initial Pesticide Certification Review and Exam sessions <https://go.uvm.edu/psep>
  - On-demand CORE Manual Review (no credit) online course <https://go.uvm.edu/pseponline>
4. Schedule the CORE exam with the VAAFAM at <https://go.uvm.edu/vaafm-exam>
  - Exams are offered every Wednesday in Montpelier
  - Other exam locations around the state are offered on a rotating monthly schedule
  - See VAAFAM site for exam information

## Category Exams (required ONLY for Commercial and Non-commercial)

1. Take and pass the CORE exam.
2. Determine which category (or categories) best apply to your application. Contact UVM PSEP or VAAFM with questions.
  - 1A Agricultural Plant
  - 1B Agricultural Animal
  - 2 Forest Pest Control
  - 3A Ornamental & Shade Tree Pest Control
  - 3B Turf Pest Control
  - 4 Seed Treatment
  - 5 Aquatic Pest Control
  - 6 Right of Way Pest Control
  - 7A General (Structural) Pest Control
  - 7B Vector Pest (Non Public Health)
  - 7C Food Processing Pest Control
  - 7D Wood and Fiber Product
  - 7E Cooling Towers and Biocides
  - 7F Disinfection & Antimicrobial Pest Control
  - 10 Demonstration and Research Pest Control (must be paired with another category)
  - 11 Aerial Pest Control
3. Acquire a copy of manual(s) and download any inserts from <https://go.uvm.edu/vaafm-types>
4. Study the manual(s) and any inserts. Optional study aids include:
  - On-demand online courses <https://go.uvm.edu/pseponline>
    - Category 3B Manual Review (no credit)
    - Category 7A Manual Review (no credit)
    - Category 7C Manual Review (no credit)
    - Category 7F Manual Review (no credit)
5. Schedule category exam(s) with the VAAFM at <https://go.uvm.edu/vaafm-exam>
  - Exams are offered every Wednesday in Montpelier
  - Other exam locations around the state are offered on a rotating monthly schedule
  - See VAAFM site for exam information

### **New in 2023, manuals and exams TBA**

- 1C Apiculture
- 8 Public Health Pest Control
- 9 Regulatory Pest Control
- 12 Soil Fumigation
- 13 Non-soil Fumigation
- 14 Terrestrial Invasives

## Final Step: License & Costs

- You will be notified when you pass exams and what charges are due to receive your license.
- Private certification charge is \$25, valid for 5 years
- Commercial and Non-commercial certification charge is \$30 per category (\$120 maximum), renewed annually

## Stay Certified: Recertification Credits

- All certified applicators have 5 years to earn recertification (i.e. continuing education) credits to maintain certification.
  - Private certification must earn 8 recertification credits
  - Commercial or Non-commercial must earn 16 recertification credits
- Applicators that have not earned the required number of credits must re-take the exams in order to remain certified.
- Monitor individual certification records at <https://go.uvm.edu/usap-lookup>
- Recertification credits are earned by attending meetings and/or courses approved for credit by VAAFM
  - Courses approved in Vermont can be found at <https://go.uvm.edu/usap-recert>
  - Email credit slip or certificate scans or photos to [agr.pest@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.pest@vermont.gov) or mail to: VAAFM Pesticide C&T, 116 State St, Montpelier, VT 05620.
- Recertification credits may also be earned by completing and returning quizzes in *The Pesticide Applicator* newsletter.
  - Archives can be found at bottom of page <https://go.uvm.edu/psep>
  - Email quiz files, scans, or photos to [agr.pest@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.pest@vermont.gov) or mail to: VAAFM Pesticide C&T, 116 State St, Montpelier, VT 05620.
- NOTE: New England states have reciprocal agreement wherein any recertification credit approved and earned in one New England state will be accepted by the other New England states. It is up to the applicator to report to their state with proof of completion (usually a certificate). That state will then check back with the issuing state to verify that the event occurred and the attendance roster on record.

---

*The UVM Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) works closely with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to provide training and education resources for current and prospective pesticide applicators, ensuring proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment.*

**Pesticide Safety Education Program** | 63 Carrigan Drive | Burlington, VT 05405

802-656-0475 | [sarah.kingsley@uvm.edu](mailto:sarah.kingsley@uvm.edu)

[uvm.edu/extension/psep](https://uvm.edu/extension/psep)



CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

c.2025

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. Any reference to commercial products, trade names, or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES