



Montana State Laws and Regulations Pertaining to the Use of Pesticides



Appendix to the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual

**To be used by Commercial, Non-Commercial, Public Utility
and Governmental Pesticide Applicators and Dealers**

October 2025

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Introduction

This supplemental manual is intended to be used as a study guide to accompany the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual. The information included in this manual has been taken from the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM). It is intended to be used by Pesticide Dealers and Commercial, Governmental, Non-Commercial, and Public Utility Pesticide Applicators.

The information highlighted in this manual does not release an applicant's responsibility for being knowledgeable of all the information contained in any of the statutes or rules mentioned in this manual. Applicants are accountable to be in compliance with all state and federal regulations.

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Montana State Pesticide Laws and Regulations

At the federal level, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) sets the laws and regulations governing pesticides and dictates the enforcement necessary under those laws and regulations. States are given primary enforcement authority when they have adopted adequate state laws and regulations and have adequate procedures for enforcing state law, keeping records, and making reports of all enforcement activities. State laws and regulations may not be less restrictive, but may be more restrictive, than the federal laws and regulations established under FIFRA.

Montana has established a cooperative agreement with EPA and has assumed the primary responsibilities of administering FIFRA programs.

In 1947, Montana adopted its first pesticide law, entitled the “1947 Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.” This Act was administered by the Department of Health and required registration of all economic poisons (pesticides) in Montana. This law was repealed on July 1, 1971. Since then, several other laws affecting the use of pesticides have been enacted.

Montana Pesticides Act (MPA)

The Montana Pesticides Act (MPA), Title 80, Chapter 8, Sections 80-8-101 through 80-8-405, MCA, as amended, enacted by the 43rd Legislature in 1971, is administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The MPA is comprehensive in its regulation of the sale and use of pesticides. The Act may be subdivided into three major areas of responsibility: registration of pesticides; licensing of pesticide applicators, operators, and dealers; and enforcement and administrative procedures.

Registration of Pesticides

All pesticides must be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All EPA registered pesticides must also be registered with the MDA before they may be legally offered for sale or be used in Montana. Montana also registers pesticides formulated within the state. An annual registration fee per pesticide product registered is required. All registrations expire each year on December 31 following the date of issuance.

Montana must register all federally registered pesticides upon receipt of such registration from the registrant. The MDA has the authority to impose additional restrictions on the use and application of pesticides within the state. The state may restrict the application of certain pesticides to type of applicator, time, and place. The MDA may suspend or cancel the registration of a pesticide whenever it does not appear that the product or its labeling complies with the MPA or scientific evidence proves that the product endangers humans, or the environment, or lacks efficacy.

The MDA is given the authority to sample, inspect, and make analysis of pesticides distributed within Montana to determine whether such pesticides are in compliance with the MPA. Pesticides not in compliance may be embargoed if they are:

- adulterated or misbranded,
- not registered,
- fail to bear a proper label, or
- a white powder pesticide and lacking the required coloration.

Embargoed pesticides cannot be removed, disposed, or sold without MDA permission. Embargoed pesticide products which are brought into compliance with the law will have the embargo removed. If the product cannot meet the provisions of the MPA, it is returned to the registrant or disposed of at the expense of the claimant.

Special Registrations

Please see pages 33-34 of the core manual to review Special Local Need Section 24(c) registrations and Emergency Exemptions from registration (Section 18). MDA is the agency for attaining these pesticide uses in Montana. Any person may contact MDA to determine if there is an unmet need that can be addressed using these registrations or exemptions.

When applying a Section 24(c) or Section 18 pesticide, a state specific label or use directions must be in the possession of the applicator. Section 24(c) registrations are generally registered for five years at a time and then reevaluated to determine if the need is still present. Section 18 exemptions are only valid for a specific amount of time, usually during the period of time surrounding the presence of the pest population within a one-year time frame.

It is the responsibility of the dealer to ensure the appropriate use directions accompany the product when it is sold for use under a special registration or exemption. If an applicator or dealer has any questions or concerns regarding a special registration, he or she should contact the MDA.

For more detailed information concerning the registration of pesticides refer to Sections 80-8-201 through 80-8-202, MCA of the MPA.

Licensing Provisions

The individual, not the business or government entity, holds the pesticide applicator license. If an employee licensed as an applicator leaves employment, the business may not apply pesticides unless another licensed employee is available or until a new person is licensed.

Types of Applicator Licenses

Commercial applicators are individuals who by contract or for hire apply by aerial, ground, or hand equipment pesticides to land, plants, seed, animals, water, structures, or vehicles.

Public Utility applicators are individuals who apply pesticides for a public utility. A public utility is any governmental organization supplying water, electricity, transportation, etc. to the public, including utilities operated by a private entity under governmental regulation. These applicators must meet the same conditions and standards established for commercial applicators.

Governmental applicators are individuals who apply pesticides for agencies, municipal corporations, or any governmental agencies and are subject to the same licensing requirements as a commercial applicator.

Non-Commercial applicators are individuals who cannot be classified as a commercial, public utility, or government certified applicator or who cannot be classified as a private applicator but desire the use of restricted use pesticides. A certified non-commercial applicator may only use restricted use pesticides on lands owned, rented, or leased by their employer or themselves.

Licensing Requirements

A license for commercial, public utilities, governmental, and non-commercial applicators is required annually. The license document is valid from the date of issuance through December 31 each year. It must be renewed each calendar year BEFORE applying pesticides. Before issuing a license document, the MDA requires that an applicant submit a signed department approved application form, pay the current licensing fee, and pass the Core examination and specific classification examinations with an 80 percent or better.

Financial Responsibility

Applicants for a commercial pesticide applicators license are required to provide, on forms approved by the MDA, evidence of financial responsibility establishing the ability of the applicant or their employees to respond to and indemnify any person or persons for all damages to their person or property arising out of the use, misuse, or attempted use or application of pesticides.

Liability insurance is the only acceptable form of financial responsibility.

Aerial applicators must have an insurance policy with minimum liability limits of \$50,000. All other commercial applicators must carry minimum coverage of \$30,000.

Commercial seed treatment and vertebrate pest control applicators using ground applied baits only, public utility, and non-commercial applicators applying pesticides in or on properties managed by them are exempt from the financial responsibilities required in ARM 4.10.101 through 4.10.102. Governmental applicators are also exempt from financial responsibility requirements.

Financial responsibility must be maintained throughout the licensing period and must cover damages caused by the unintentional violations of the MPA in MCA Title 80, chapters 1 through 4. Aerial applicators must, in addition, meet all the requirements of the Federal Aviation Agency and the Aeronautics Division of the Montana Department of Transportation before a license is issued.

Re-certification

All license holders must recertify their specific license classifications every four years. Licensed applicators and dealers have the option of recertifying by re-examination or by attending MDA approved training. Recertification training is available through the MDA on a pre-determined schedule or by attendance at MDA-approved industry sponsored

training. All applicators or dealers who choose to recertify by training must attend training equivalent to 12 recertification credits (hours) during the recertification period. Commercial pesticide applicators wishing to recertify by examination may contact the MDA in Helena or one of the MDA field offices.

Certification and recertification training is required to contain components of the competency standards for licensing of pesticide applicators as outlined in Administrative Rule (4.10.204, ARM).

Montana Pesticide Applicator/Dealer Training Standards:

- Labels and labeling comprehension
- Safety
- Environmental consequences
- Pest identification and biology
- Pesticide factors
- Equipment factors
- Laws and regulations
- Responsibilities of supervisors of operators
- Professionalism*

*See Appendix A for additional information on professionalism not included in the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual 2nd Edition, 2014.

Nonresidents

Nonresidents applying for a license in Montana, in addition to meeting the above requirements, must file a written Power of Attorney designating the Secretary of State as their agent. This permits a service of process to be made in the event of suit brought against the nonresident. The Power of Attorney will be written to provide effective jurisdiction by the courts of Montana over the nonresident applicant. Nonresident corporations may appoint a resident agent in lieu of appointing the Secretary of State as their agent.

Government Agencies

Government employees applying pesticides are subject to the provisions of the MPA and its regulations. Supervisors and/or applicators of government sponsored pesticide spray programs will be required to obtain a government applicator license and are subject to the same requirements as commercial applicators. All applicants for this license will be required to pass examinations, submit an application form, and pay the specified licensing fees. The license allows the applicator to apply pesticides for agency use only. One licensed applicator or licensed operator is required for each pesticide equipment unit operated by a business or government agency.

Commercial/Government Applicator Licensing Classifications

Agricultural Plant Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in the production of agricultural crops, including but not limited to: small grains, feed grains, soybeans and forage, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits and nuts, as well as on

grasslands and noncrop agricultural lands. Agricultural Plant Pest applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of crops grown and the specific pests of those crops on which they may be using pesticides. The importance of such competency is amplified by the extensive areas involved, the quantities of pesticides needed, and the ultimate use of many commodities as food and feed. Practical knowledge is required concerning soil and water problems, preharvest intervals, reentry intervals, phytotoxicity, and potential for environmental contamination, nontarget injury, and community problems resulting from the use of pesticides in agricultural areas.

Agricultural Animal Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides on livestock animals including but not limited to: beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, and poultry, and to places on or in which animals are confined. Doctors of Veterinary Medicine engaged in the business of applying restricted use pesticides for hire, publicly holding themselves out as pesticide applicators, or engaged in a large-scale use of restricted pesticides are included in this classification and must be certified and licensed. Agricultural animal pest applicators applying pesticides directly to animals must demonstrate practical knowledge of such animals and their associated pests. A practical knowledge concerning specific pesticide toxicity and residue potential is required since host animals will frequently be used for food. Further, the applicator must know the relative hazards associated with such factors as pesticide formulation, application techniques, age of animals, stress, and extent of treatment.

Agricultural Vertebrate Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in the management of vertebrate animals normally wild or feral, including certain predators, rodents, and birds, which may adversely affect human health or property or are a nuisance to humans. Vertebrate applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of vertebrates for which they may be using pesticides. They should possess practical knowledge of the cyclic occurrence of certain pests and specific population dynamics as a basis for programming pesticide applications. The applicator must demonstrate a practical knowledge of control and application methods which will minimize the possibility of secondary problems such as unintended effects on wildlife. These applicators must demonstrate knowledge of the use of these pesticides which will minimize or prevent hazards to humans, pets, and other domestic animals.

Forest Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in forests, forest nurseries, and forest seed-producing areas. Forest pest control applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of the types of forest, forest nurseries, and seed production in Montana and the pests involved. They should possess practical knowledge of the cyclic occurrence of certain pests and specific population dynamics as a basis for planning pesticide applications. A practical knowledge of the beneficial organisms and their vulnerability to the pesticides to be applied is required. Because forest stands may be large and frequently include natural aquatic habitats and harbor wildlife, the consequences of pesticide use may be difficult to assess. The applicator must therefore demonstrate practical knowledge of control methods which minimize the possibility of secondary problems, such as unintended effects on wildlife. Proper use of specialized equipment must be demonstrated, especially as it may be related to meteorological factors and adjacent land use.

Ornamental & Turf Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides to control pests in the maintenance and production of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, and turf. Ornamental and turf pest control applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of pesticide problems associated with the production and maintenance of ornamental trees, shrubs, plants, and turf. Applicators must understand the potential phytotoxicity due to a wide variety of plant material, drift, and persistence beyond the intended period of pest control. Because of the frequent proximity of human habitation to application activities, applicators in this classification must demonstrate practical knowledge of application methods which will minimize or prevent hazards to humans, pets, and other domestic animals.

Seed Treatment & Elevator Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides onto seeds. Seed treatment applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of the types of seeds that require pesticide protection against pests, and factors such as seed coloration, carriers, and surface active agents which influence pesticide binding and may affect germination. They must demonstrate practical knowledge of hazards associated with handling, sorting and mixing, and misuse of treated seed such as introduction of treated seed into food and feed channels as well as proper disposal of unused treated seeds.

Aquatic Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides purposefully applied to standing or running water, excluding applicators engaged in public health related activities included in the public health pest control classification. Aquatic pest control applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of the secondary effects which can be caused by improper application rates, incorrect formulations, and faulty application of pesticides used in this classification. They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of various water use situations and the potential of downstream effects. Further, they must have practical knowledge concerning potential pesticide effects on plants, fish, birds, beneficial insects, and other organisms which may be present in aquatic environments. These applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of the principles of limited area application.

Right-of-Way, Rangeland, Pasture, and Noncrop Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides to manage weeds or other vegetation in the maintenance of public roads, electric power lines, pipelines, railway rights-of-way, or other similar areas. This classification includes any applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides to manage weeds or other vegetation on grassland and pastures that are not harvested for forage, and any applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides on noncrop areas to manage weeds or other vegetation. Right- of-Way, rangeland, pasture, and noncrop pest control applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of a wide variety of environments since these applicators can traverse many different terrains, including waterways. They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of problems on runoff, drift, excessive foliage destruction, and potential effects to livestock and nontarget organisms. Applicators must have the ability to recognize target plants and differentiate them from nontarget plants. They shall also demonstrate practical knowledge of the nature of herbicides, the need for containment of these pesticides within the target

application site, and the impact of their application activities in the adjacent areas and communities.

Public Health Pest Control: A state, federal, or other governmental applicator or contracted commercial applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance. Public health pest control applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of vector-disease transmission as it relates to and influences application programs. A wide variety of pests are involved, and it is essential that they be recognized. Life cycles and habitats must be understood to develop control strategies. These applicators shall have practical knowledge of a great variety of environments ranging from stream habitats to those conditions found in buildings. They should also have practical knowledge of the importance and employment of non-chemical control methods, such as sanitation, waste disposal, and drainage.

Demonstration & Research Pest Control*: An applicator who demonstrates to the public the proper use of pesticides and pesticide application techniques or supervises such demonstrations or makes or approves recommendations on pesticide product use and/or selection, or an applicator conducting field research of pesticides and in doing so, uses or supervises the use of pesticides. Persons licensed as pesticide dealers are exempt from this classification. Demonstration and research pest control applicators demonstrating the safe and effective use of pesticides to others will be expected to meet comprehensive standards reflecting a broad spectrum of pesticide use. Many different problem situations will be encountered in the course of activities associated with demonstrations. Practical knowledge of problems, pests and population levels occurring in each demonstration situation is required. They should demonstrate an understanding of pesticide organism interactions and the importance of integrating pesticide use with other control methods. In general, it would be expected that applicators doing demonstration pest control work possess a practical knowledge of all the standards detailed in the Montana Pesticide Act – ARM 4.10.204.

*This is not a stand-alone classification but is a subclassification requiring the specific standards for classifications (1)(a) through (t) of ARM 4.10.205 applicable to their particular activity be met. Persons conducting field research or method improvement work with restricted use pesticides are expected to know the general standards required for classifications (1)(a) through (t) of ARM 4.10.205, applicable to their particular activity, or alternatively, to meet the more inclusive requirements listed under “Demonstration” in ARM 4.10.205 (1)(n).

Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health-Related Pest Control (PCO): An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in, on, or around food handling and manufacturing establishments, human dwellings, institutions such as schools and hospitals, industrial establishments, including warehouses and any other structures and adjacent areas, public or private, for the protection of stored, processed, or manufactured products. These applicators must demonstrate a practical knowledge of a wide variety of pests and their life cycles, types of formulations appropriate for their control, and methods of application that avoid contamination of food, damage and contamination of habitat and exposure of people and pets. Since human exposure includes babies, children, pregnant

women, and elderly people, applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of the specific factors which may lead to hazardous conditions for these individuals, including continuous exposure in the various situations encountered in this classification. Because health-related pest control may also involve outdoor applications, applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of environmental conditions particularly related to this activity.

School Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in the school environment under a “Model School Integrated Pest and Pesticide Management Safety Program” including but not limited to schoolyards, buildings, playing fields, and other property under the jurisdiction of the school district. School pest control applicators must demonstrate a practical knowledge in the principles of integrated pest management and a knowledge of pesticides registered for use in the school environment.

Wood Product Pest Control: Any applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides for pole framing, sillig applications, some home and farm uses, brush on treatments, sapstain control, and uses in nonpressure treatment plants for the protection of wood products. Wood product pest control applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of the specific wood preservative products used in their operation, for example: creosote, pentachlorophenol, and inorganic arsenicals. They shall be knowledgeable about the protective clothing and equipment requirements as well as the requirements for proper care and disposal of work clothing and equipment. Applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of pesticide application techniques which prevent direct exposure to domestic animals and livestock and prevent contamination of food, feed, or drinking and irrigation water. They shall be aware of the prohibitions against eating, drinking, and smoking, and other potential avenues of work exposure while applying wood preservative chemicals. They must demonstrate practical knowledge of hazards of handling treated products as well as the requirements for proper disposal of pesticide waste. They must be familiar with the Consumer Awareness Program which is implemented through the use of Consumer Information Sheets provided to the end users of treated products (the consuming public).

Sodium Fluoroacetate-1080 Livestock Protection Collar: Applicators who use sodium fluoroacetate in a protective collar to control predators. demonstrate practical knowledge of predator pests, including recognizing those pests and signs of the presence, their habitats, life cycles, biology, and behaviors as they may be relevant to pest identification and control. Applicators must also demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of specific requirements for field posting, monitoring, recordkeeping, proper storage of collars, disposal of punctured or leaking collars, disposal of contaminated animal remains, vegetation, soil, and clothing, and reporting of suspected and actual poisoning, mishap, or injury to threatened or endangered species, humans, domesticated animals, or non-target wild animals. They shall demonstrate comprehension of all laws and regulations applicable to the use of sodium fluoroacetate products, including the restrictions on the use of sodium fluoroacetate products ordered by the EPA Administrator. Applicators must also demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of the specific use restrictions for sodium fluoroacetate in the livestock protection collar, including where and when sodium fluoroacetate products can be used, safe handling and placement of collars, and

practical treatment of sodium fluoroacetate poisoning in humans and domestic animals. All 1080 Livestock collar applicators must pass the written exam and attend training required by ARM 4.10.1204.

Sodium Cyanide (M-44): Applicators who use sodium cyanide in a mechanical ejection device to control regulated predators. Sodium cyanide (M-44) predator control applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of mammalian predator pests, including recognizing those pests and signs of their presence, their habitats, their life cycles, biology, and behavior as they may be relevant to pest identification and control. They must demonstrate comprehension of all laws and regulations applicable to the use of mechanical ejection devices for sodium cyanide, including the restrictions on the use of sodium cyanide products ordered by the EPA Administrator. M-44 applicators must also demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of all of the specific use restrictions for sodium cyanide devices, including safe handling and proper placement of the capsules and device, proper use of the antidote kit, notification to medical personnel before use of the device, conditions of and restrictions on when and where devices can be used, requirements to consult U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps before use to avoid affecting endangered species, maximum density of devices, provisions for supervising and monitoring applicators, required information exchange in locations where more than one agency is authorized to place devices, and specific requirements for recordkeeping, monitoring, field posting, proper storage, and disposal of damaged or used sodium cyanide capsules. All M-44 applicators must pass the written exam and attend training required by ARM 4.10.1404.

Special Utility: Special Utility applicators are persons using or supervising the use of pesticides in the maintenance of utility rights of way, substations, and pole conditioning or other similar areas. Applicators in this classification must demonstrate practical knowledge of a wide variety of utility right-of-way environments. They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of problems of runoff, drift and excessive foliage destruction, and ability to recognize target organisms. They shall also demonstrate practical knowledge of the nature of herbicides and soil sterilants, the need for containment of these pesticides within the designated areas, and the impact of their application activities in the adjacent areas. They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of the specific wood preservative products used in their operation. They shall be knowledgeable about the protective clothing and equipment requirements and the requirements for proper care and disposal of work clothing and equipment. They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of application techniques which will prevent direct exposure to domestic animals and livestock, or in contamination of food, feed or drinking and irrigation water. They shall be aware of the prohibitions against eating, drinking, and smoking and other potential avenues of work exposure while applying wood preservative chemicals. They must demonstrate practical knowledge of hazards of handling treated products as well as the requirements for proper disposal of pesticide waste.

Piscicide Pest Control: An applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides purposefully applied to waters to eliminate fish species as a fishery management tool. Piscicide pest control applicators must demonstrate knowledge of registered piscicides and safety practices for use, storage, and transportation. They shall demonstrate

knowledge of the secondary effects which can be caused by improper application rates, incorrect formulations, and faulty application of pesticides used in this classification. They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of various water use situations, the potential of downstream effects and piscicide decontamination procedures. They must have practical knowledge concerning potential pesticide effects on plants, fish, birds, beneficial insects, and other organisms which may be present in aquatic environments. They must show practical knowledge of water chemistry, pest identification, and the ecology within the aquatic environment. Applicators must also have knowledge of applicable laws and regulation related to introduction of pesticides into state waters and demonstrate practical knowledge of the principles of limited area application.

Non-soil Fumigation: An applicator who uses or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to fumigate anything other than soil, including fumigant applications made to structures, grain elevators, and rodent burrows. Non-soil fumigant applicators shall qualify in one or more appropriate classifications in ARM 4.10.202 (3)(a) through (p). Non-soil fumigant applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of the pest programs and pest control practices associated with performing non-soil fumigation applications of restricted use pesticides including the following: label and labeling comprehension; safety; selecting, inspecting, using, caring for, replacing, and disposing of personal protective equipment; and the importance of proper application rate, posting, and timing. Applicators must have knowledge of measures used to minimize adverse health effects due to unintended exposure. Effective 1/1/2026.

Aerial Pest Control: An applicator who applies pesticides by aircraft, including applications made by drone or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Aerial applicators shall qualify in one or more appropriate classifications in ARM 4.10.202 (3)(a) through (q). Aerial applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of pest problems and pest control practices associated with performing aerial application of pesticides and meet all the requirements of 40 CFR 171.103(d)(15). They shall demonstrate practical knowledge of labeling requirements and restrictions specific to aerial application of pesticides, how to choose and maintain aerial application equipment, factors to consider before and during an application, methods to minimize off-target pesticide movement, and demonstrate competency in performing an aerial pesticide application.

Regulatory Pest Control: A state, federal, or other governmental applicator who uses or supervises the use of pesticides in the control of regulated pests. Regulatory pest control applicators shall demonstrate practical knowledge of regulated pests, applicable laws relating to quarantine and other regulation of pests, and the potential impact on the environment of pesticides used in suppression and eradication programs. Factors which influence introduction, spread, and population dynamics of relevant pests must be understood. In the case of some federal agency applicators, their knowledge shall extend beyond that required by their immediate duties since their services are frequently required in other areas of the country where emergency measures are invoked to control regulated pests, and where individual judgments must be made in new situations.

Regulatory Pest Control – Mosquito Abatement: A governmental applicator who applies pesticides to control mosquitoes.

Regulatory Pest Control – Predator: A governmental applicator who applies

pesticides to control predators for the protection of domestic livestock or endangered species.

Regulatory Pest Control – Quarantine: A governmental applicator who applies pesticides to control vectors of diseases that affect the public health.

Regulatory Pest Control – Rodent: A governmental applicator who applies pesticides for the control of rodents on publicly owned property.

Regulatory Pest Control – Weed: A governmental applicator who applies pesticides to public roadways or right-of ways for the control of weeds.

Regulatory Pest Control – Piscicide: A governmental applicator who applies pesticides to public waters for the control of fish.

Other Types of Licenses and Permits

Operators are employees of certified pesticide applicators and do not hold their own pesticide certification. Montana Pesticide rule allows one certified applicator or one licensed operator to accompany each spraying equipment unit when in actual operation. Licensed operators may not apply pesticides beyond one hundred (100) miles of the certified pesticide applicator. An operator's license may be obtained in the following ways:

- pass an MDA examination with a score of 80 percent or better;
- attend an MDA training course; or
- receive training from a certified applicator.

Operators are required to be licensed annually and must be renewed each calendar year BEFORE applying pesticides. They may renew their license by receiving training from a certified applicator or attend a training course approved by MDA and submitting the application fee and application.

Government operators must meet all of the above standards for operators except government operators can only operate within their respective governmental boundaries regardless of the number of miles from the government certified applicator's business location.

The MDA may also establish licensing and examination requirements for operators by regulation. Applicators are responsible for all pesticide related actions by their employees.

Farm (private) applicators are individuals who need to use a restricted use pesticide on property owned, rented, or leased by the applicator, or their employer, for the purpose of producing any agricultural commodity. To obtain a permit, farm (private) applicators must pass a Farm (Private) Applicator examination or attend a training course and complete an ungraded quiz. The training manual, examination and training required for this permit can be obtained from your local MSU County Extension.

A farm (private) applicator does not require a commercial applicator license when they:

- apply general use pesticides to their own land;
- apply general use pesticides to accommodate neighbors on lands immediately

adjacent or across a road from lands owned, leased, or rented by the farm (private) applicator doing the applications;

- are not engaged in the business of applying pesticides for hire; or
- operate their equipment only in the vicinity of their own property.

A private farm applicator shall be classified into one or more of the specific classifications set forth in 4.10.401(3).

- Private farm general permit*- An applicator using or supervising the use of restricted use pesticides for agricultural pest control on land owned, rented, or leased by the applicator or their employer.

*In order to obtain any of the additional classification described in 4.10.401(3)(b) through (f), an individual must possess an active private farm general permit for agricultural pest control.

- Private Farm Aquatic Pest Control- An applicator who applies restricted use pesticides purposefully to standing or running water.
- Private Farm M-44 Sodium Cyanide Predator Control- An applicator who uses sodium cyanide in mechanical ejection devices to control predators.
- Private Farm 1080 Livestock Collar Predator Control- An applicator who uses sodium fluoroacetate in a protective collar to control predators.
- Private Farm Aerial- An applicator who applies restricted use pesticides by aircraft. Effective 1/1/2026.
- Private Farm Non-soil Fumigation- an applicator who applies restricted use pesticides to fumigate anything other than soil. Effective 1/1/2026

Dealer Licensing is required for the sale of pesticides except those pesticides labeled only for home, yard, and garden use. Each outlet must have an individual licensed to sell pesticides in Montana. Pesticide sales and field personnel not under the supervision of a dealer must also be licensed. The individual, not the business or government entity, holds the pesticide dealer license. If an employee licensed as the dealer leaves employment, the business cannot sell pesticides until a new person is licensed. Dealers are required to pass an examination with a score of 80 percent or better before a license is granted. To become licensed, dealers must submit an application to the MDA with the required licensing fee each calendar year. It is a violation of the Montana Pesticides Act for a dealer or their employees to sell pesticides prior to becoming licensed.

Retail Sale of general use pesticides which are labeled for only home, yard, garden, and lawn uses does not require a license from the MDA. All retailers must maintain shipping, purchasing or invoice records for pesticide products received for MDA inspectional purposes.

Pesticide Record Keeping

Applicator and dealer records of pesticide use and sales are important to provide a history of your operation. Meaningful records will also serve to protect your business and assist in evaluating efficacy in pest control, expenses, and profit, and in maintaining an inventory.

There are many different record keeping systems which may be used by applicators and dealers. These systems may range from field notes and records to office sales, use and inventory records, to the use of electronic records. Please see appendix B for examples of forms that could be used.

Dealer Records

The MPA –ARM 4.10.504 requires the following for dealers:

All pesticide dealers, including pharmacists, veterinarians, and certified pharmacies are required to maintain shipping, purchase or invoice records of all pesticide products received. A complete and accurate record of all restricted use pesticides purchased and sold also must be maintained. All records must be kept for two (2) years.

Records of each sale of a restricted use pesticide must include:

- The company name on the label;
- The complete trade name;
- The EPA registration number, including any applicable emergency exemption or state special local need registration number;
- The volume sold;
- The license or permit number of the certified applicator or dealer purchasing the pesticide;
- The expiration date of the license or permit and certification categories of the certified applicator that are relevant to the pesticide sold;
- The date of sale;
- The name and address of residence or principal place of business of each certified applicator or dealer purchasing the pesticide, or if applicable, of the operator, or of the credentialed employee or family member purchasing the pesticide.

Records required of dealers, pharmacists, veterinarians, and certified pharmacies are subject to inspection by authorized employees of the MDA during normal business hours. Dealers are required to submit the records (a copy or the original) to the MDA upon written request.

Sales of retail pesticides are exempt from the record keeping and reporting requirements of this rule. Further information on records of retail pesticides can be found in ARM 4.10.502 (2).

Applicator Records

The MPA – ARM 4.10.207 requires the following for applicators:

All certified commercial, public utility, government applicators, non-commercial applicators, and their operators are required to keep and maintain operational records for two (2) years.

A record must be kept of every application performed by either an applicator or operator and must include the following.

- The name and the license number of the certified applicator that made or supervised the application, and, if applicable, the name of any operator(s) that made the application; The date the application was made;
 - The time of application, including both start and end times, must be recorded;
 - The location must include the property owner's or lessee's name and address where the pesticide was applied. The specific application site must be expressed by township, range, and section number, local identifiable landmarks or latitude and longitude coordinates. Right-of-way applications may be expressed in general terms of identifiable landmarks. Non-agricultural applications may specify the site, building, facility, or other identifiable landmarks;
 - The equipment used. If the same piece of equipment is used for all applications, then this equipment may be listed only once. If more than one piece of equipment is used, the applicator may assign a number to each piece of equipment and list the equipment once by description and thereafter by number;
 - The pesticide(s) used, with the company or manufacturer's name, trade name, and the EPA registration number is required;
 - The rate of application used, including the amount of formulated product per volume or weight to be applied on a given unit area;
 - The size of the area treated (number of acres, trees, livestock, square feet, or yards, etc.) or the type of treatment for structural applications;
 - The primary pest(s) involved (do not use general terms such as weeds and bugs);
 - The site or crop treated and the stage of crop development, if applicable;
 - The weather conditions such as wind speed, wind direction, and temperature, if applicable;
- Seed treatment applicators and wood product applicators are required to maintain the same records but are not required to make a record of pests involved, the site or crop treated, or weather conditions, as provided by ARM 4.10.207(6).

Applicators using two or more pesticides in a tank mixture must record all data as required for each pesticide in the tank mix.

Application records must be completed within 24 hours of the actual pesticide application.

Applicator records are open to inspection by authorized employees of the MDA during all business hours. Applicators are required to submit copies of their records or any portion

of the records when requested, in writing, by the MDA.

Incident Reports

An applicator who causes or allows any pesticide to drift, run off or otherwise escape onto another person or property must file a written report to the MDA within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident. The report will include:

- specific location of the incident;
- name of the pesticide involved;
- type of formulation;
- method of application;
- name and address of the person for whom the application was being made; and
- name and address of the person whose land, person or property was subjected to the unintentional pesticide application.

In addition, if the pesticide is classified as either extremely toxic or highly toxic to people or animals, the applicator or operator must immediately stop the application and notify the landowner and the MDA of the unintentional pesticide application immediately, by the quickest available means, after applying first aid or personal decontamination if appropriate.

Notification by Applicators

Applicators applying EPA restricted use pesticides shall notify the owner, lessee, or manager of the property of all precautions and restrictions before applying the restricted use pesticide. The applicator, if requested, is required to provide a copy of the label to the owner, manager, or lessee. Applicators applying EPA restricted use pesticides in an easement or right-of-way situation are not required to notify any person if the applicator is employed by or specifically contracted by the person holding or managing the easement or right-of-way.

Enforcement and Administrative Procedures

Revocation of License

The MDA may refuse to issue, or renew a license, or may revoke a license or permit when the MDA has determined that the licensee is not qualified to use, sell, or apply pesticides under the conditions in the locality in which the licensee or permittee operates, or has operated, or has committed any of the following:

- made false or fraudulent claims misrepresenting the effect of materials or methods to be utilized;
- applied or sold unapproved or illegal materials;
- applied or sold a pesticide without possessing a current and appropriate license or permit;

- operated in a faulty, careless, or negligent manner;
- operated faulty or unsafe equipment;
- refused or neglected to comply with provisions of FIFRA or the MPA and its associated rules;
- used or applied a registered pesticide inconsistent with its label or labeling or the department restrictions on the use of that pesticide;
- refused or neglected to keep and maintain application records or make reports when and as required;
- made false or fraudulent records or reports;
- operated equipment for the commercial application of a pesticide without a permit or license;
- used fraud or misrepresentation in making application for license or permit or renewal of a license or a permit;
- made false or misleading statements in an attempt to sell pest control services or made misleading statements concerning the effectiveness of any pesticide or application; or
- failed to satisfy a judgement entered against the licensee as a result of a complaint concerning the use of a pesticide.

Decisions of the MDA relating to issuance or revocation of licenses or permits may be appealed.

Report of Loss or Damage

A person suffering loss or damage resulting from the use or application of any pesticide by any person must report the loss to the department within 30 days from the time the loss became known to the person. Refer to Section 80-8-301, MCA of the Pesticide Act for a full description of requirements.

Public Information

The MDA may publish or make available information on the registration, use, or application of pesticides in Montana provided that such information will NOT disclose the operations as selling, production, or use of pesticides by any person.

Investigation and Enforcement Authority

The MDA, upon reasonable cause, has the authority to enter upon private and public premises and property, at reasonable times, with a warrant or consent of the owner to inspect or investigate:

- equipment used for applying pesticides;
- actual or reported adverse effects caused by pesticides in humans, crops, animals, land, or other property;

- records on the selling and use of pesticides and the person's stock of pesticides;
- handling, use, application, storage, and disposal of pesticides;
- pesticides being applied or to be applied and to sample the pesticide or agricultural commodities;
- the use and application of a pesticide;
- the environment alleged to have been exposed to pesticides and to collect and analyze environmental samples;
- compliance with pesticide EPA Worker Protection Standards and labeling, including handlers and workers;
- compliance with pesticide groundwater and EPA Endangered Species Standards and labeling; or
- compliance with licensing, labeling, permitting, and certification requirements.

The MDA is authorized to investigate all incidents involving the application, sale, introduction or use of registered pesticides or compounds capable of acting in the manner of a pesticide, when the incidents have a potential to adversely affect people or the environment. The investigation or inspection authority provided for in section 80-8-304 MCA includes persons not possessing a license or permit.

Montana Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Protection Act (MACGWPA)

The Montana Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Protection Act (MACGWPA), Title 80, Chapter 15, MCA is administered jointly by the MDA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This law establishes Montana policy protecting water resources and the use of agricultural chemicals. Both agencies will:

- protect ground water and the environment from impairment or degradation due to the use of agricultural chemicals;
- ensure that agricultural chemicals are properly and correctly used;
- provide management of agricultural chemicals which will prevent, minimize, and mitigate their presence in ground water;
- provide education and training of agricultural chemical applicators and the general public on ground water protection, agricultural chemical use, and the use of alternative agricultural methods.

Water Quality Standards

The DEQ is responsible for the adoption of ground water quality standards for agricultural chemicals for which federal standards exist and for those agricultural chemicals whose presence has been verified in ground water. Upon request from the MDA, DEQ develops or requests EPA to develop an interim numerical standard for agricultural chemicals for

which there is no existing standard. Water quality standards are used by both agencies in assessing potential threats to human health from consumption of contaminated ground water.

Monitoring

Both the MDA and DEQ are required to conduct monitoring of ground water resources to determine:

- whether residues of agricultural chemicals are present in ground water and;
- the likelihood of an agricultural chemical entering ground water.

Both the MDA and the DEQ review and evaluate monitoring and sampling data jointly. The departments, in cooperation, determine the appropriate response to contamination. Such determinations are based upon water quality standards, water classification (i.e., how the water is used) and risk to human health, based on consumption patterns.

Management Plans

The MDA is responsible for the development of management plans which provide for the protection of ground water resources through the management of agricultural chemicals. The MDA published the Montana General Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Management Plan (GMP) in 1994. The GMP sets the basis upon which all state specific management plans are based. Specific management plans will be specific to particular agricultural chemicals and to a defined geographical area. A specific management plan must be implemented when the level of an agricultural chemical found in ground water is at 50 percent or greater of the official standard.

The department may develop and implement an agricultural chemical ground water management plan specific to particular agricultural chemicals and may consider but is not limited to considering the following elements when determining whether or not to develop and implement agricultural chemical ground water management plans:

- a definite trend of increased presence of the agricultural chemical in ground water;
- agricultural chemicals have been determined to have migrated in the ground water from the point of detection;
- EPA proposes to suspend or cancel registration of an agricultural chemical, prohibits or restricts the chemical's sale or use in the state, or otherwise initiates action against a chemical because of ground water concerns, and EPA's action, restriction, or prohibition will be implemented unless the state develops an adequate management plan; or
- agricultural chemicals that possess or are suspected of possessing properties that indicate potential to migrate to ground water are being applied on areas underlain by ground water that is vulnerable to impairment.

The department may initiate educational programs about agricultural chemical management to provide information and management techniques to protect ground water in an effort to preclude the need for development of specific agricultural chemical ground

water management plans in the future.

A person using an agricultural chemical in the geographical region that is addressed by a specific agricultural chemical ground water management plan must comply with that plan. The department may specifically identify and designate persons who are under the plan and may inform any person about the plan.

The department prioritizes preparation of specific agricultural chemical ground water management plans in consideration of the specific circumstances of each area and within available resources. The MDA must consider the current and potential beneficial use or uses of the ground water included in or affected by the plans. The MDA must also consider the benefits of appropriate agricultural chemical use when developing any management plan.

All management plans must be adopted as administrative rules and are enforceable under the Montana Ground Water Act.

Commercial Fertilizer Ground Water Management Plans

If the MDA or the DEQ determine that residues from commercial fertilizer are present in the ground water or when EPA implements a program to protect ground water from fertilizers, a commercial fertilizer ground water management plan may be developed.

Enforcement and Investigations

The MDA has the authority to:

- investigate conditions relating to compliance with agricultural chemical labels, agricultural chemical ground water management plans, monitoring requirements, ground water protection requirements and to investigate violations of plans or compliance orders;
- gain access to and copy any records required by the MDA;
- establish and inspect monitoring equipment; and
- sample ground water, including drinking water supply sources such as wells and similar structures.

The MDA may issue a compliance order to any person(s) violating a standard or any other requirement of the MACGWPA. The MDA may require cleanup of any agricultural chemical that has contaminated or has a significant probability of entering ground water.

Administrative Civil Penalties

Persons violating the MACGWPA may be assessed an administrative civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each offense for commercial applicators and up to \$500 for farm (private) applicators. Assessment of a civil penalty may be made in conjunction with any other warning, order, or administrative action. When determining an appropriate administrative civil penalty, the MDA will consider the effect of the person's ability to continue in business, the gravity of the violation that occurred, the degree of care exercised by the offender, and whether significant harm resulted to public health, agricultural crops,

livestock, or the environment.

Judicial Civil Penalties

Persons who violate any order, specific agricultural chemical ground water management plan or any provision of MACGWPA will be subject to a judicial civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000. Each occurrence constitutes a separate violation.

Criminal Penalties

Violations of the MACGWPA committed intentionally by any person(s) are subject to a fine up to \$25,000 for each day the violation continues or imprisonment for up to 1 year or both. Following an initial conviction under this section, a subsequent conviction subjects a person to a fine of not more than \$50,000 for each day the violation continues or imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

Montana Water Quality Act (MWQA)

The Montana Water Quality Act (MWQA) is administered by the DEQ. The purpose of this Act is to provide additional and cumulative remedies to prevent, abate, and control the pollution of state waters. MWQA outlines the responsibilities of the DEQ in the development of water quality standards, water resource use and quality classifications, and non-degradation rules as they relate to surface and ground water resources of Montana. Under the Water Quality Act, it is unlawful to pollute any state waters, or to place or cause to be placed any wastes, in a location where they will cause pollution of state waters. Before applying pesticides in water, pesticide applicators should contact the Water Protection Bureau of the DEQ for information on required permitting.

Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act

The Miller Amendment (1954) of The Montana Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requires that any raw agricultural commodity be condemned as adulterated if it contains pesticides for which there is no established tolerance, or for which established tolerance limits are exceeded.

Montana Solid Waste Laws

The Montana Solid Waste Management Act prohibits the disposal of any solid waste in any location not licensed as a solid waste disposal site by the DEQ. Refuse is defined as “all putrescible and non-putrescible solid industrial wastes.” In this context, some pesticides are included within the definition. Any person found violating this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

APPENDIX A

Professionalism Standard

Professionalism is expected for certified pesticide applicators and dealers because your work has the potential to cause significant harm. You decide what to apply, and how. You work in some sensitive sites, managing complex considerations from the customer(s), neighbors, and others. Sometimes the situation may call for more caution than the label (the law) requires, and it is up to you to exercise caution using your best judgment and high standards of professionalism. When things go wrong, and professionals are involved, the public can lose faith in our ability to use chemicals with the necessary caution and care. Do your part to set and hold high standards, promoting a culture of caution in your organization(s).

Professionalism for certified applicators and dealers includes maintaining site-security for restricted-use pesticides. Pesticides may be desirable targets for theft and potentially, misuse.

General storage requirements for pesticides in containers of 55 gallons or smaller are specified by the product labeling.

- Pesticide storage facilities should be locked at all times unless they are under the direct supervision of someone who is authorized to enter.
- The storage area should only be accessible to authorized employees. Installation of security lighting and an alarm system may be considered.

Communicating information about pesticide risks and exposures is not limited to audiences of agricultural workers and handlers, but includes customers and the general public, who might be far less knowledgeable about pesticides, the risks they pose, and what actions can be taken to reduce those risks. Resources, such as the National Pesticide Information Center, are particularly helpful for learning how to communicate risk and risk reduction to the general public.

Open and honest communication builds trust, and it builds the knowledge-base of the workforce. When talking about safety, avoid absolute terms. As you know, chemicals are not simply 'toxic' or 'non-toxic' because the amount of exposure also determines the risk(s). Ask questions to clarify their viewpoint and concerns as needed. If appropriate, call attention to shared experiences. Tell people what you've already done to keep the risks as low as possible and encourage them to do their part by following proper safety practices.

This content includes material adapted by PERC from the NPIC fact sheet, "Is it Safe? Tips for Talking About Pesticide Risk" and included in PERC's guide to "Meeting Updated Competency Standard For Certified Pesticide Applicators".

APPENDIX B

EXAMPLES OF MONTANA PESTICIDE RECORD KEEPING FORMS

Compliments of the

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DIVISION
PO BOX 200201
HELENA, MT 59620-0201
Phone: 406-444-3144

DAILY PESTICIDE APPLICATION RECORD

BUSINESS	LICENSE#
NAME	ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP	PHONE

CUSTOMER_____ PHONE_____

ADDRESS_____

	APPLICATION #1	APPLICATION #2
Applicator/Operator Name		
Date		
Time Start/Stop		
Temperature		
Wind Speed/Direction (from)		
Pesticide Manufacturer		
Trade Name		
EPA Reg# or Formulation		
Rate: Product/Diluent Per Acre		
Rate: Calibration		
Crop or Site & Crop Stage		
Pest(s)		
Equipment Used		
Acres/Area Treated		
Location #1	COMMENTS/MAP	
Location #2		

Dealer Name: _____ License Number: _____

Adress: _____ Business Name: _____

Business Name: _____

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