

# **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PESTICIDE LICENSES, PERMITS, AND CERTIFICATES IN MISSISSIPPI.**

**Source: Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry.**

Different types of licenses, permits, and certificates are required by the State of Mississippi for individuals recommending, applying, or selling pesticides. Educational materials for licenses and certificates are available for a fee from the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Written examinations required for commercial licenses and certificates are administered by the Bureau of Plant Industry, a division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

With prior approval, written examinations for licenses are given the second Tuesday in each quarter of the calendar year at Mississippi State University.

Commercial pesticide examinations are given at various times and locations throughout the state.

## **LICENSES**

The major categories of licenses are:

- **Professional Services**
  1. **Pest & Weed Control**
  2. **Pest Management Consultant**
  3. **Tree Surgery**
  4. **Landscape Horticulturist**
  5. **Soil Classification**
- **Pesticide Dealer**
- **Aerial Application**

A professional services license is required for persons advertising and/or soliciting business to control pests or weeds, or to perform landscape gardening, tree surgery, or soil classification.

Control-type licenses are offered in two major areas: pest control and weed control. These types of licenses expire 36 months from the date issued. To renew a control-type license, holders must submit a form prescribed by the Bureau of Plant Industry and either attend a training course approved by the Bureau within the past 12 months or pass an examination.

A pest control license is required for persons charging fees for applying pesticides and/or making recommendations for control of pests.

All licensed pest control operators must be certified commercial applicators. A license in one of the following areas allows the pest control operator to advertise and/or solicit business to control pests in that respective category:

- **Wood Destroying Insect Control**
- **Orchard Pest Control**
- **General Pest and Rodent Control**
- **Mosquito and Biting Fly Control**
- **Horticultural Pest Control**
- **Domestic Animal Pest Control**
- **Fumigation Pest Control**
- **Agricultural Pest Control**

A commercial weed control license is required for persons charging fees for applying herbicides or using other methods in the control or eradication of any weed. All persons licensed in weed control must be certified as a commercial applicator.

With a license in one of the following areas, the weed control operator may advertise and/or solicit business to control weeds in that respective category:

- **Agricultural Weed Control**
- **Aquatic Weed Control**
- **Right-of-Way Weed Control**
- **Horticultural Weed Control**

A pest management consultant license is required for persons making recommendations and charging fees for entomology, plant pathology, or weed control services.

This license is offered in three major areas: entomology, plant pathology, and weed control. There are various categories within each area:

**Entomology:** Persons charging fees for advice or recommendations in the control of insects and/or vertebrate pests must be licensed in the appropriate entomology category listed:

- **Agricultural**
- **Forest**
- **Household, Structural, and Industrial**
- **Medical, Veterinary, and Public Health**
- **Orchard and Nut Tree**
- **Ornamental**

**Plant Pathology:** Persons charging fees for advice or recommendations in the control of plant diseases must be licensed in the appropriate plant pathology category listed:

- **Agricultural Plant**
- **Forest Plant**
- **Orchard and Nut Tree Plant**
- **Ornamental and Shade Tree Plant**

**Weed Control:** Persons charging fees for giving advice or making recommendations in the control of weeds must be licensed in the appropriate weed control category listed:

- **Agricultural**
- **Aquatic**
- **Forest and Right-of-Way**
- **Ornamental and Turf**
- **Industrial or Commercial**

Pest management consultant licenses expire December 31 of each year. To renew, the holder must submit a form prescribed by the Bureau of Plant Industry and either have attended an approved training course or passed an examination.

A landscape horticulturist license entitles a person to arrange, set and care for fruit tree nursery stock, ornamental plants, or shrubs. This is a lifetime license, but is not transferable.

A tree surgery license entitles a person to engage in pruning, bracing, cabling, and filling of cavities or treatment of trees and shrubs, other than applying pesticides, to retard or repair decay or prolong the life of trees. This is a lifetime license, but it is not transferable.

A soil classifiers license is required for work that involves receiving compensation for plotting the boundaries of soils and describing and evaluating the kinds of soil as to their behavior and response to management under various uses. These licenses expire 36 months from the date issued. To renew, the holder must submit a form prescribed by the Bureau of Plant Industry and either have attended a training course or passed an examination.

A dealer license is required for each location or outlet located within Mississippi from which restricted-use pesticides are distributed, sold, or offered for sale. Licenses for pesticide dealers expire on December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually.

A license for aerial application of pesticides is required for persons who apply or supervise the application of pesticides by aircraft. Applicants must pass an examination before the license is issued. These licenses expire December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually.

## **PERMITS**

Permits pertain only to pest and weed control firms. Each branch office for a pest control and/or weed control license-holder must have at least one licensee or one permit holder for each category under which the licensee is soliciting and/or performing work.

## **CERTIFICATES**

There are two categories of certificates: private and commercial. Anyone applying or supervising the application of a restricted-use pesticide must be certified by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The certificate does not allow a person to advertise or solicit business as a pesticide applicator. A person must be licensed in the area of work being performed to advertise or solicit business.

*Private certification* applies to pesticide applicators using or supervising the use of restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by his or her employer. Examples include farmers, ranchers, orchard producers, and nursery operators.

*Commercial certification* applies to pesticide applicators that apply or supervise the application of restricted-use pesticides for any purpose or on any property other than as provided by the definition of private pesticide applicator. Categories of commercial pesticide applicators are:

- **Agricultural Pest Control**
  1. **Plant**
  2. **Animal**
- **Forest Pest Control**
- **Ornamental Pest Control**
- **Seed Treatment**
- **Aquatic Pest Control**
- **Right-of-Way Pest Control**
- **Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health-Related Pest Control**
  1. **Control of Termites and Other Structural Pests**
  2. **Control of Pests in Homes, Businesses, and Industries**
  3. **Industrial Weed Control**
  4. **Fumigation**
- **Public Health Pest Control**

- **Regulatory Pest Control**
- **Demonstration and Research Pest Control**
- **Aerial Application**
- **Wood Preservation and Products Treatment**
- **Antifoulant Paint Pest Control**
- **Metam Sodium**

### **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

Contact the Bureau of Plant Industry.  
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**The Bureau of Plant Industry is a regulatory and service division of the  
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce**