

## **Vermont Pesticide Applicator Category Guidance**

Each state's pesticide rules are different. These differences can include the applicator categories offered by a state. The Pesticide Certification and Training Program at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets developed this guidance to help pesticide companies and prospective pesticide applicators understand the Vermont applicator categories and which may align with a company's work or an applicator's intended pesticide usage in Vermont. This is meant to help guide you to make the choice that fits best for the type of work you do. If you remain uncertain of which category you should obtain, please reach out to [agr.pest@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.pest@vermont.gov).

### **Private applicators:**

- for farmers or their employees using pesticides on property/land owned or leased by the farm to produce an agricultural commodity.
- needed when the farm wishes to use Class A (restricted use) pesticides or be able to train their own workers and handlers for the federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS).
- If you wish to use a restricted-use pesticide on your property and it is not for agricultural use, then you would be treated as a non-commercial applicator and need to become certified as such or hire a certified commercial applicator with a certification in the correct category.
- If you are a commercial certified applicator in category 1 and you wish to use restricted use pesticides on your own farm, you must obtain a private applicators certification.

Private applicators who wish to apply pesticides aerially, or for soil or non-soil fumigation must also become certified in the respective sub-category.

### **Commercial and Non-commercial/Government applicators**

The following applies to applicators who use or supervise the use of a pesticide. For information about the difference between commercial and non-commercial applicator, please visit:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/pesticide-programs/applicator-types>

#### **Category 1A Agricultural Plant**

- for the production of plant based agricultural commodities, including but not limited to grains, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, feed and forage crops including grasslands, and non-crop agricultural lands.

#### **Category 1B Animal**

- for use *on* animals or to places on or in which animals are confined including a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine engaged in the business of applying a pesticide for hire, and who

publicly holds themselves out as pesticide applicators. This category does not include the use of pesticides in apiculture.

- This category also includes fish farming or insect farming (ie. Crickets) that is not apiary.

### **Category 1C Apiculture**

- the use of pesticides in apiculture, including, but not limited to miticides.

*For farmers or employees of farms using pesticides on the farm's crops or animals, they may need a private applicators certification (see above).*

### **Category 2 Forest Pest Control**

- to control pests in forests, forest nurseries, forest settings, and forest seed production.
- This category is only for settings that are currently forested and not future forests.
- This category does include areas that were recently clear cut.
- terrestrial introduced (invasive) plant control where no other categories fit where you will be doing the introduced plant control. For example, if you will be using pesticides to treat introduced plants for a town wide project, you would choose this category.
- Please note that some introduced plant control may require obtaining a permit from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

### **Category 3A Ornamental & Shade Trees**

- For the control of landscape pests in the maintenance ornamental and landscape plants including flowers, shrubs and trees.
- Includes *landscape* settings such as private yards, parks, and flower beds, and *hardscape settings* such as walkways, patios, etc. or using repellents to repel vertebrate pests in the landscape.
- If you are using pesticides to control mosquitoes or ticks in a landscape setting, obtain category 7B.

### **Category 3B Turf**

- to control pests in the maintenance and production of turf, including golf courses.
- Includes *hardscape* settings such as walkways, patios, etc. or using repellents to repel vertebrate pests in the landscape.
- For lawns or other turf grass.
- This category includes the treatment of rodents that are pests of lawns/turf (i.e. moles, voles) and are not rodents who may become a pest of a structure.

- For the use of a pesticide to control mosquitoes, ticks and other biting arthropods *in an outdoor setting*, use category 7B.

### **Category 4 Seed Treatment**

- the use of pesticide on seeds in seed treatment facilities.
- Choose this category if you will be using pesticides to treat seeds. This category is not necessary for using already treated seeds.

### **Category 5 Aquatic Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide as applied to, or adjacent to, standing or running waters and includes but is not limited to, waters of the State, drinking water reservoirs, industrial lagoons and sewage or wastewater treatment plant lagoons.
- For all pesticide use *in or near* surface water, including private ponds, stormwater ponds, or in areas when water is present most of the year.
- NOTE – pesticide applications made to waters of the state require a permit from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

### **Category 6 Rights-of-way Pest Control**

- the use of pesticides in the maintenance of Rights-of-Way associated with roadways, and utility powerlines, pipelines, railroads or similar areas.
- This category is for controlling pests to maintain the safety within a right-of-way. If you wish to treat pests harming the plants in the right-of-way (i.e. Emerald Ash Borer treatment of street trees), then obtain the appropriate category, likely 3A.
- For in place control of utility poles, obtain category 7D.

### **Category 7 Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health Related Pest Control.**

#### **Category 7A General Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide in, on or around food handling establishments (non-food areas); human dwellings; institutions, such as schools or hospitals; industrial establishments, including warehouses and grain elevators and any other structure and adjacent area, public or private, for the protection of stored, processed, or manufactured products.
- for pesticide use to control pests that could affect structures (houses, buildings, etc.), which can include wood destroying insects, treating carpenter ant mounds in a tree stump in the yard, baiting a rat burrow, etc.

### **Category 7B Vector Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide for the control of mosquitoes, ticks and other biting flies *in an outdoor setting*.
- If controlling for mosquitoes, ticks or biting flies in an outdoor setting, obtain this certification even if certified in another category that covers the site of application.
- Vehicle mounted, including aerial, vector pest control and mosquito larviciding may require a permit.

### **Category 7C Food Processing Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide to control pests in, on, or around food processing plants that may include, but are not limited to, bakeries, dairy product processing, canning and frozen food packing, confection manufacturing, and meat product processing plants.
- For pesticide use in food handling establishments in areas where food or food products are prepared, packaged, or held.
- This includes pesticide applications in restaurant kitchens, cafeteria kitchens, food hubs, or anywhere food products that are meant for public consumption are prepared, packaged, or held.
- For control in residential kitchens, obtain 7A.

### **Category 7D Wood and Fiber Product Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide for control of pests that degrade or prematurely destroy the service, life and usefulness of wood and fiber products.
- Includes wood treatments and those doing in place utility pole treatments.

### **Category 7E Cooling Towers and Biocides (non-potable water)**

- the use of a pesticide to control pests in non-potable cooling waters and in water or slurries used in industrial processing, in, on or around human dwellings, commercial establishments, institutions, including, schools and hospitals, industrial establishments and any other structures and adjacent areas whether public or private.

### **Category 7F Disinfection and Antimicrobial Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide to treat mold or microbial growth in residential or commercial settings. Includes commercial disinfection services.
- mold remediation
- disinfection/sanitation services

## **Category 8 Public Health Pest Control**

- Applicators employed by the government for the use of a pesticide in public health programs for the management and control of pests for medical and public health importance.
- This category is for controlling pests, *other than* mosquitoes, ticks, or biting flies, as part of a public health program.

## **Category 9 Regulatory Pest Control**

- the use of a pesticide by State, federal, and other governmental subdivisions for control of regulated pests.
- only for government employees.

## **Category 10 Demonstration and Research Pest Control**

***This is a concurrent category and must be used in conjunction with valid certification in another category.***

- the use of a pesticide for the purpose of demonstrating pest control to the public
- supervising demonstrations
- conducting field research with a pesticide.
- Included in this category are those individuals who demonstrate, or recommend a pesticide to applicators, dealers, or the public.
- Sales reps selling pesticides directly to the end user must obtain a pesticide dealer license.

## **Category 11 Aerial Pest Control**

***This is a concurrent category and must be used in conjunction with valid certification in another category.***

- an applicator who performs an aerial application for the control of pests.
- includes Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV (drone)) pesticide applications.

## **Category 12 Soil Fumigation**

***This is a concurrent category and must be used in conjunction with valid certification in another category.***

- the use of a pesticide to fumigate soil.

### **Category 13 Non-soil Fumigation**

***This is a concurrent category and must be used in conjunction with valid certification in another category.***

- the use of a pesticide to fumigate anything other than soil.

### **Category 14 Terrestrial Invasive Plants (Not yet available – see category 2)**

- the use of pesticide in a wide variety of settings, including but not limited to forests, sensitive ecosystems, residential, fallow crop land, targeted at the control of terrestrial invasive plant species.
- treatment of terrestrial invasive plants and ONLY terrestrial invasive plants in a wide variety of sites.