



Backgrounder Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Certificate for Tree Fruit Growers in BC

June 22, 2022

Changes to Environmental and WorkSafeBC regulations have created some uncertainty about when and why a Pesticide Applicators Certificate (PAC) is required. The purpose of this note is to provide clarity and context.

Introduction

Though a PAC is not required for food safety programs, a grower with a PAC will satisfy the food safety requirement for 'formal training' in pesticide application. PAC is required for certain specific pesticide applications - rules change from year-to-year, and a PAC will provide assurance of meeting regulatory requirements. A PAC is always a good thing to have in place to build awareness of good practices in mixing and applying pesticides and economical (Integrated Pest Management) use of pesticides.

Growers with no employees and not registered for WorkSafeBC are not required to have a PAC. Few growers will fall into this category, and for those who do, a PAC is still beneficial for the above reasons.

When having a PAC is a Requirement

A grower with employees or a grower that is registered for self-coverage of work-related accidents through WorkSafeBC, will require a PAC if certain products are used (see the appendix for detailed information). The list of products that require a PAC will change from time-to-time. In order to maintain the current *and future* ability to spray any crop protection material in the future, maintaining a valid PAC will ensure continued access to all registered crop protection materials under the current WorkSafeBC and BC Ministry of Environment rules.

As a final note, an applicator that applies a pesticide for a Fee for Service for a grower must have an Agriculture Pesticide Applicators Certificate *and* a License from the Ministry of Environment.

Considering the range of products that require a PAC, the regular changes made to the list, the impossibility of predicting when a product requiring PAC might be needed to control a future pest outbreak, and the ability of a PAC to meet food safety requirements for some formal training in pesticide application

As a result of the forgoing, it is recommended that all growers maintain Pesticide Applicator Certification.



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To obtain an initial PAC, a test must be written and passed.
The PAC is valid for 5 years. [Here is information on writing the test.](#)

To renew an existing, valid PAC certificate, the Pesticide Applicators Certification program (commonly called “PAC Points”) provides an alternative to the testing process every five years. Growers may obtain PAC Point credits by attending courses throughout the five year period of certification, and renew using the credits rather than writing an exam.
[Here is information on the PAC points system for PAC renewal.](#)

PAC points cannot be used if the PAC expired more than a year ago or if no PAC test is written and passed.

Appendix

Certain Products that require a PAC, as of June 20, 2022, to be mixed and applied:

- Any of the [rodenticides](#). Note that new rules are being considered for rodenticides, but are not finalized or prescribed.
- The [growth regulator](#) Sevin.
- The [fungicides](#) Aprovia, Lime Sulphur, and Merivon
- Quite a few [insecticides](#):
 - Agri-Mek SC
 - Calypso 480
 - Cygon 480 EC
 - Danitol
 - Decis 5% EC
 - Imidan WP
 - Lagon 480 EC
 - Minecto Pro
 - UP-Cyde 2.5 EC
- No [miticide](#) or [herbicide](#) requires a PAC, according to current WorkSafeBC rules.



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