

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO COMPLY

Mac Takeda, Program specialist, Pesticide Enforcement Branch, CDFA, has just announced that the regulation requiring continuing education hours for pesticide applicators will become effective July 4, 1990. Mac has indicated that accreditation of continuing education hours will be retroactive to January 1, 1990. An informational letter from CDFA will be mailed soon to all license/certificate holders.

Changes in the requirements and monitoring of mandated Continuing Education hours have created several areas of confusion. The Applicator's News interviewed Robert Kennedy, Hartnell College Pest management Computer, to get some answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Q. What are the most important things applicators should understand about the new mandated continuing education (CE) program?

A. (1) Sign in with your correct license/certificate number. When you are audited by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and your name and license are not on the meeting sponsors sign-in sheet- then you weren't there! You may have forgotten to sign in BUT be forewarned, the requirement of the CE program is that the meeting sponsor must have a sign-in sheet.

(2) Follow the meeting sponsors sign-out procedure, if one exists. Most all day meetings have one. If you sign in and fail to check out (as the meeting sponsor requires) then, generally, you will only get one hour for having checked in.

Q. How will the new mandate for continuing education hours affect the multiple licensee who holds more than one card under CDFA?

A. CDFA has established a ranking of these licenses and the licensee is expected to keep their CE record on the highest ranking number if attending an applicator meeting. For example, a PCA/QAL card holder will sign in with their PCA number even though attending in order to meet the requirements of their applicator card.

The subject requirements between different groups are quite similar, consequently, meeting the requirements of, and keeping your record on your highest sequence card will meet almost all of the lower sequence license/certificates. These hours will also be kept on your highest sequence card.

Q. What is the ranking sequence?

- A. (1) Pest Control Advisor (PCA)
 (2) Pest Control Pilot (JP & AP)
 (3) Qualified Applicator Licensee (QAL)
 (4) Qualified Applicator Certificate Holder (QAC)
 (5) Others

NOTE: If you sign in with your QAL card number and you also have a JP, AP or PCA number, the computer will not accept that number and will respond with "This is not your highest sequence of card". so identify your highest card and always use it.

Q. How does this sequence of licenses affect Professional Association membership and the Hartnell Computer?

A. Hartnell College is funded through contract agreements with each of the professional associations for this service. In accordance with these contracts you must belong to the association of your highest ranking license in order to gain access to the meeting sponsor's records held in the computer. Not only in CDFA stressing education with their new mandate, but the professional associations also agree among themselves on the need to encourage

improvement through education in each of these license categories.

Q. Must I be a member of my professional association to get continuing education hours for attending meetings?

A. NO! BUT at the time of an audit the burden of proof of attendance rests entirely on your shoulders to prove you were there. If you or a member of your professional association the record keeping is done for you and provides proof of your attendance.

Q. How does CDFA audit me?

A. When you are chosen for audit, you will receive a letter from CDFA asking for the documentation of your attendance at each of the meetings you cited on your renewal application. NOTE: DO NOT SEND any of this documentation to CDFA with your routine renewal application. You need only send this documentation when requested by CDFA. When requested send it and keep a copy for yourself. CDFA may then compare this with the meeting sponsor's records. P.S. This is one of the major advantages of the printout from the Hartnell computer. When audited CDFA first checks to see if your renewal record was the Hartnell printout. If so, you probably will not receive the audit letter as the Hartnell printout is the accepted compilation of the meeting sponsor's records saying that you were there.

For CAPCA members the laws and regulation instruction hours will in the future be singled out and accredited with a subcode and will require another line on your computer printout. In addition to being part of the 40 hours, a summary listing at the bottom of your printout will show CDFA whether you met the required 4 hours for laws and regulations. **The computer takes care of you.**

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