

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Plant Industry Division

CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAWN SPRAY APPLICATORS

by

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Licensing of persons or firms that apply pesticides for hire has been required since the Legislature passed the commercial economic poisons applicators act (Act No. 233) in 1959. Until this past year the law did not apply to the custom application of pesticides indoors or require examination and proof of financial responsibility as prerequisites for obtaining a license. The 1970 Legislature amended the law to include those requirements, the amendments becoming effective April 1, 1971.

Licensing is not required if you spray your own crops or otherwise apply pesticides on your own property or on property under your control. Licensing is also not required of farmers when trading work with other farmers.

If you plan to apply pesticides for hire, whether by spraying, dusting, granular application or in admixture with fertilizer, etc., and whether they are insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, soil sterilants, nematocides, defoliants or dessicants an applicator's license is necessary. Briefly, the procedure is:

1. Make inquiry at the Lansing office or at a regional office of the Plant Industry Division, Michigan Department of Agriculture, (a map and addresses are attached). Be prepared to advise as to which of these 12 categories of pesticide application you plan to engage in: 1) Aerial Application, 2) Aquatic Pest Control, 3) Brush Control and Soil Sterilant Application, 4) Mosquito and Public Health Pests, 5) Space Fumigation, 6) Structural Pest Control, 7) Vertebrate Control (rodents, birds, etc.), 8) Animal Pest Control, 9) Field Crop Pest Control, 10) Fruit Crop Pest Control, 11) Lawn, Garden and Ornamental Pest Control, 12) Forest and Shade Tree Pest Control.

These categories and other licensing specifics are outlined in Michigan Department of Agriculture Regulation No. 632.

2. You will be supplied with a license application form, a bond form, and if you cannot prove you are a "grandfather," i.e., you were not in the business of applying pesticides for hire in the category or categories you wish to be licensed for, prior to January 1, 1971, you also will receive an examination manual. The manual will include full instructions on preparing for and taking the examination at Lansing or at a regional office of your choice. Sample questions and study references and their sources will also be furnished.
3. When you wish to take the examination, an appointment can be made at the nearest division office and the examination can be taken and graded there. The completed license application and \$20.00 license fee must be presented at or before the time of examination.

4. Both a bond and liability insurance certificate must be supplied to the department before a license can be issued. The minimums for both depend upon the category of pesticide application. Lawn spraying and most other categories of pesticide application require insurance minimums of \$20,000 for bodily injury or accidental death sustained by one person resulting from one accident, \$40,000 bodily injury or accidental death sustained by two or more persons from one accident and \$10,000 property damage resulting from one accident. A \$2,000 corporate surety bond or its equivalent on deposit in an escrow account is also required.
5. Licenses expire on December 31 of each year and may be renewed without examination unless other categories of application activity are added to the business. In the latter case, examination on the added activity is required. A new insurance certificate and bond, if the one for the previous year has expired, must accompany the renewal application.