INFORMATION BULLETIN
ON
DOD PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION CORRESPONDENCE COURSE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES PERSONNEL

1. **Background.** DoD Natural Resources personnel are often unaware of their positional designation as a pest management professional (PMP) and of the correspondence/self-study option used to obtain DoD Pesticide Applicator Certification. For qualified individuals, this information bulletin outlines the criteria and procedures used to enroll and obtain DoD Pesticide Applicator Certification via the correspondence/self-study option. Natural resources personnel commonly need DoD Pesticide Applicator Certification for control of invasive species and other pesticide related land management requirements in and around airfields, training ranges, understory, right of ways, aquatic vegetation, turf and other land management areas common on DoD installations.

2. **Applicable Issuances.** The DoDI 4150.07 requires that all pesticide applications on DoD installations be made only by personnel trained and certified in accordance with DoD 4150.7-M, “DoD Pest Management Training and Certification, or by State-certified applicators with equivalent DoD categories for work being performed”. While in-residence pesticide certification training is recommended, circumstances may warrant correspondence certification in the various categories for qualified individuals.

3. **Certification categories.** Typical pesticide certification categories required for DoD Natural Resources personnel include:

   a. **Core Certification:** The DoD adopts EPA core competency standards emphasizing practical knowledge in integrated pest management (IPM) principles and practices and safe use of pesticides. Individuals to be certified in any of below categories must first successfully complete the mandatory core competency training.

   b. **Category 2 (Forest Pest Control):** Forest management practices; Fertilization programs; Plant biology, physiology, and pathology; Classification and mode of action of pesticides; Biology and control of forest pests; and natural resources utilization.

   c. **Category 3 (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control):** Vegetation and turf management practices; Fertilization programs; Plant biology and physiology; Classification and mode of action of herbicides; Biology and control of ornamental and turf pests and diseases; Weed control; and natural resources conservation programs.

   d. **Category 5 (Aquatic Pest Control):** Plant biology/physiology; Identification & control of aquatic weeds; Classification & herbicide mode of action; natural resources conservation program.

   e. **Category 6 (Right-of-Way Pest Control):** Plant biology/physiology; Identification/control of weeds; Classification and herbicide mode of action; and natural resources conservation programs.
4. **Prerequisites:** Natural Resources personnel are considered Pest Management Professionals (PMP) and eligible for the correspondence certification option, if they are DoD civilian employees (or commissioned military officers) with a college degree in biological, physical, or agricultural sciences, whose current job includes pest management and pesticide application responsibilities. Although recommended, these individuals are NOT required to attend the in-resident DoD certification course and may complete the course work and exams via self-study correspondence. Contract employees are not eligible for DoD pesticide certification and must obtain equivalent state certifications. Non-degree holding technicians/personnel are also not eligible for the correspondence option and must attend in-resident certification course offered by the Army or Navy (see below).

5. **Procedures.** Installation PMPs desiring DoD Pesticide Certification must first forward a letter of request to their Major Command Pest Management Consultant (PMC) or Service Senior Pest Management Consultant (SPMC). In the letter, state need, professional experience, formal training, and the category/categories in which certification is required. Upon successful eligibility determination by PMC or SPMC, a request will be forwarded to the Army Certification Training Center (see below) who will forward study materials to requesting individual. The closed-book examination will be forwarded to appropriate Service/installation education office. Use PMCs if possible, but if unknown contact SPMCs using info below.

   a. **Army:** Steve Sekscienski, steven.w.sekscienski.civ@mail.mil; OACSIM; (571) 256-9725

   b. **Air Force:** Don Teig, donald.teig@us.af.mil; AFCEC/COSC; (850) 283-6465

   c. **Navy:** Sabra Scheffel, sabra.scheffel@navy.mil; NAVFAC ATLANTIC, (757) 322-4320

6. **Approval.** The Army Certification Training Center at Army Academy of Health Sciences, Fort Sam Houston serves all Services and is the only DoD facility supporting the correspondence/self-study option. Following Service SPMC approval, send email request for self-study and testing materials to Mr. Bill Pittman, william.e.pittman.civ@mail.mil; Army Academy of Health Sciences, Fort Sam Houston; (210) 221-8261. Upon completion of training requirements, your certifying official will provide you with DD Form 1826/1826-1. Contact your PMC or SPMC to identify your appropriate certifying official. Additional certification details are found in DoDI 4150.07M.

7. **Other Considerations.** All pest management operations must be coordinated with the Installation Pest Management Coordinator (IPMC) according to the Installation Pest Management Plan. Additionally, all pesticide applications are required to be recorded and submitted to the IPMC using DD Form 1532/1532-1 or SPMC approved electronic equivalent. Please note this Information Bulletin assumes Natural Resources Personnel have access to appropriate pest management facilities (See AFPMB TG 17, Military Handbook - Design of Pest Management Facilities; https://extranet.acq.osd.mil/eie/afpmb/cac/techguides/tg17.pdf) meeting DoD requirements to properly mix, load, and store pesticides and equipment. For installations that do not have appropriate pesticide handling facilities, contract operations may be the best option for your installation.

8. Please contact Dr. Doug Burkett at douglas.a.burkett.civ@mail.mil or (301) 295-8304 for further information and questions.