

Temporary Registered Applicator Program: Guidance for Trainers

This document provides guidance from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to businesses and municipalities that wish to implement a temporary registered applicator training program during the declared state of emergency issued under Executive Order 2020-04 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background and Overview:

Act 451, Part 83, Section 8314 (1) states, "A person shall not apply a pesticide for a commercial purpose or in the course of his or her employment unless that person is either a certified applicator or a registered applicator."

To become a registered applicator in Michigan, Regulation 636, Rule 8 requires a person complete an MDARD-approved training program provided by an MDARD-approved trainer; and successfully pass an exam covering the general standards for pesticide use (i.e. core material). With few exceptions, registered applicators are applicators who can apply general use pesticides under the supervision of a certified applicator.

Traditionally, MDARD-approved trainers are required to study the *Registered Technician Approved Trainer Manual* and pass a written exam administered by MDARD. Trainers are also required by Regulation 636, Rule 11, to develop a registered applicator training program that must be approved by MDARD prior to implementation. Approved trainers then use the approved training program to train prospective registered applicators. Once an applicator has successfully completed the training program, they must then pass the commercial core exam (typically administered by MDARD).

Due to the suspension of in-person certification exams as part of the state's COVID-19 response, MDARD is implementing this program to: 1) approve certified applicators wishing to become MDARD-approved trainers of registered applicators; and 2) allow approved trainers to administer exams to applicators wishing to become registered for the first time.

NOTE: This program is a temporary solution intended to solve some of the challenges of not being able to conduct in-person exams. As such, the *Temporary Registered Applicator Program* is only in effect during the declared state of emergency issued under Executive Order 2020-04.

Temporary Requirements for Trainers of Registered Applicators:

Regulation 636, Rule 11 (2) allows MDARD to authorize trainers of registered applicators. If you meet the following requirements, MDARD will consider you an approved trainer under this Temporary Registered Applicator Program:

- 1) You are currently a certified pesticide applicator in the State of Michigan.
- 2) Have at least 2 years of experience as a certified applicator.
- 3) You have read and understand this guidance document.
- 4) You have passed the Registered Applicator Trainer exam administered by MDARD as part of this temporary program.

Approved Training Program for Registered Applicators:

Regulation 636, Rule 8 (3) requires that training programs for commercial registered applicators to be approved by MDARD. A training program developed by Michigan State University has already been

approved by MDARD to be used along with category specific training, designed and administered by an approved trainer, to train registered applicators under this Temporary Registered Applicator Program. For more information, click on the link below:

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Private+Pesticide+Applicator+CORE+review/1_9aj0rutb

Exam Administration:

Under this Temporary Registered Applicator Program, MDARD is providing approved trainers an exam they can administer to applicators who've completed an approved training program (i.e. MSU video and category specific training).

Important Information:

- According to Act 451, Part 83, Section 8311 (8), a commercial applicator is responsible for pesticide applications made by persons under his or her supervision. The Act also defines "Supervise" as: directing the application of a pesticide with or without being physically present during the application. In summary, a certified applicator who is supervising a registered applicator is not required to be physically present during an application. However, the certified applicator bears some responsibility for the registered applicator and therefore, must ensure the registered applicator understands how to properly apply the pesticide.
- According to Act 451, Part 83, Section 8306 (1), a registered applicator may only apply general use pesticides. Under no circumstances may a registered applicator apply a restricted use pesticide (RUP) for commercial purposes.
- Under this Temporary Registered Applicator Policy, registered applicators may only make applications in the categories that the supervising (certified) applicator is currently certified in and for which they have received category-specific training.

Steps for Implementing this Temporary Registered Applicator Program

- 1) Read and understand this guidance document to ensure you qualify to be a trainer, you understand your responsibilities, and you understand how to implement the program.
- 2) Schedule your Registered Applicator Trainer exam, which will be administered over the phone, by emailing Kevin Kern, MDARD's Certification Program Specialist, at KernK@michigan.gov
- 3) Train your prospective registered applicator. You MUST use the Michigan State University video listed above to train your applicator in the required general standards (i.e. core information). It is your responsibility to develop and train your prospective applicator in the specific categories they will be making applications in. At a minimum, the category-specific training must include identification of common pests and training on application equipment. As a reminder, trainers may only provide training in the category/categories they are currently certified in.
- 4) Administer the provided examination (Att. 1) to the prospective applicator.
- 5) Score the exam using the provided answer key (Att. 2). A score of 70% or more is considered passing. A failed exam may be retaken until a passing score is achieved.

- 6) Complete the *Registered Applicator Verification Form* (Att. 3). Retain a copy of the Registered Applicator Verification Form as a temporary credential upon successful completion of the training and examination.
- 7) Complete a Pesticide Applicator Certification/Registration Application for your registered applicator.
- 8) Mail the completed verification form, scored exam, completed registered applicator application, and check or money order (\$45) made payable to the State of Michigan to the following address:

MDOT-ASC
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
P.O. Box 30776
Lansing, MI 48909-8276

- 9) Once all the above steps are completed, the registered applicator can begin working immediately. The applicator will receive their permanent registered applicator card, which will be valid for 3 years, in the mail in approximately 4-6 weeks.