Standards for Certification of PRIVATE Applicators

April 1991

Competence in the use and handling of pesticides by a private applicator will be determined by procedures set forth below. As a minimum requirement for certification, a private applicator must show that he possesses a practical knowledge of the pest problems and pest control practices associated with agricultural operations, proper storage, use, handling and disposal of the pesticides and containers, and related legal responsibility.

A. This practical knowledge includes ability to:

1. Recognize common pests to be controlled and damage caused by them.

2. Read and understand the label and labelling information—including the common name of pesticide applied; pest(s) to be controlled; timing and methods of application; safety precautions; any pre-harvest or re-entry restrictions; and any specific disposal procedures.

3. Apply pesticides in accordance with label instructions and warnings, including the ability to prepare the proper concentration of pesticide to be used under particular circumstances taking into account such factors as area to be covered, speed at which application equipment will be driven, and the quantity dispersed in a given period of operation.

4. Recognize local environmental situations that must be considered during application to avoid contamination.

5. Recognize poisoning symptoms and procedures to follow in case of a pesticide accident.

B. Such competence of each private applicator shall be verified by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) through the administration of a private applicator certification system which ensures that the private applicator is competent, based upon standards set forth above, to use restricted-use pesticides under limitations of applicable Hawaiian and Federal laws and regulations. A certification system shall employ a written or oral testing procedure, or such other equivalent system as approved as part of the Hawaii state plan.

In any case where a person, at the time of testing for certification, is unable to read a label, the DOA may employ a testing procedure which can adequately assess the competence of such person with regard to all the above standards. Certification must be related and limited to the use and handling of each individual pesticide for which the certification is needed. Therefore, the applicator will be authorized to use only the
pesticide(s) for which he has demonstrated competence. A specific procedure is required for determining label comprehension, with testing designed to assure knowledge of the following:

1. Understanding of the label and labelling information including those items indicated in the subsection.
2. Sources of advice and guidance necessary for the sale and proper use of each pesticide related to his certification.

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Standards for
Supervision of NON-CERTIFIED APPLICATORS
by Certified Private and Commercial Applicators

Certified appicicators whose activities indicate a supervisory role must demonstrate a practical knowledge of Federal and State supervisory requirements, including labelling, regarding the application of restricted used pesticides by non-certified applicators.

The availability of the certified applicator must be directly related to the hazard of the situation. In many situations where the certified applicator is not required to be physically present, "direct supervision" shall include written instructions to the competent person, as follows: (1) detailed guidance for applying the pesticide properly, and (2) provisions for contacting the certified applicator in the event he is needed. In other situations, as required by the label, the actual physical presence of a certified applicator may be required when application is made by a non-certified applicator.