

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT
(850) 617-7997
(850) 617-7850
(850) 617-7967 FAX



THE CONNER BUILDING, No. 8
3125 CONNER BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1650

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

Overview of the Limited Certification Programs

The Bureau administers four Limited Certification Categories to certify Governmental or Private applicators, Commercial Landscape Maintenance applicators, Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer applicators, and Limited Commercial Wildlife Management applicators. **None of these certifications allows the operation of a commercial pest control business.**

Limited Governmental or Private Applicator Certification

Chapter 482.155, Florida Statutes

Limited Certification for Governmental and Private Applicators was designed for individuals and employees of private or government entities.

Examples of pesticide applicators that are impacted by this regulation would include individuals who apply pesticides to their own or their employer's buildings or lawn and ornamental plants associated with government or commercial structures such as schools, municipal/agency offices, banks, grocery stores, apartments, condominium common areas, hotels, restaurants, etc. (Persons making application to their own personal residential property OR persons using retail general-use, ready-to-use, pre-mixed, over the counter products are exempt.)

Certification obtained under this section does not authorize a person to operate a pest control business.

There are two categories within this certification program: "Structural Pest Control" for applications in, on, around or under structures, and "Lawn and Ornamental" for pesticide applications to exterior property areas. Depending on the applicator's job duties, one (or both) of the categories may be required.

Limited Gov't/Private Certification allows the use of both general and restricted use materials. For smaller municipalities and/or companies, each applicator must be individually certified. (For larger operations, the program has provisions for an employer to hire a Florida Pest Control Operator to be in charge of the pest control program and they are responsible for providing training and guidance to any applicator(s) in lieu of individual applicator certification).

Application for examination is made to the Bureau with current photo and fee and an admission slip is issued to the exam candidate. The candidate then makes arrangements with their local County Extension Service office who administers the exam. The exams are then returned to the Bureau for grading and issuance of the credential to passing candidates. The certificate is valid for four years. When renewing, the certified applicator must provide proof of having obtained four hours of acceptable continuing education.

Commercial Landscape Maintenance Applicator Certification
Chapter 482.156, Florida Statutes

The Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Certification Program was designed to allow commercial landscape maintenance personnel to make pesticide applications (using materials, with a signal word of Caution) to ornamental plants and plant beds only. It does not allow landscape maintenance workers to make any kind of pesticide applications (including weed control) to any turf areas. There are also restrictions on application equipment.

Examples of pesticide applicators that are impacted by this regulation would include commercial (for-hire) lawn maintenance or landscape maintenance individuals who apply pesticides to lawn and ornamental plants in plant beds associated with residential, governmental or commercial structures such as homes, schools, municipal/agency offices, banks, grocery stores, apartments, condominium common areas, hotels, restaurants, etc.

This certification does not allow or authorize the fertilizing/maintenance company or the applicator to operate a pest control business.

Application is made to the Bureau and, upon approval, an admission slip is provided to the applicant. The applicant makes arrangements with the local County Extension Service office to take the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance examination. The exam is then graded and certificates issued to applicants who successfully pass the examination and provide proof of minimum liability insurance (see below).

Qualifying for the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance examination requires the applicant to complete an application and to submit documentation showing completion of six (6) classroom hours of plant bed and ornamental training approved by the Department, current photo and required fee (check or money order in the amount of \$150 made payable to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services).

Also, prior to the issuance of the Limited Commercial Landscape certification, an applicant will have to provide proof of insurance which indicates that their employer meets the minimum financial responsibility requirements for bodily injury and property damage. Presently, these amounts are set at: Bodily injury: \$250,000 each person and \$500,000 each occurrence; and property damage \$250,000 each occurrence and \$500,000 in the aggregate; or combined single limit coverage of \$500,000 in the aggregate.

Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certification
Chapter 482.1562, Florida Statutes

The Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Certification Program was designed to allow commercial (for hire) fertilizer applicators to make fertilizer applications to urban properties. It does not allow any other kind of pesticide applications (including weed-n-feed fertilizers) to any turf or ornamental areas.

Examples of applicators that are impacted by this regulation would include commercial (for-hire) lawn maintenance or landscape maintenance individuals who apply fertilizers to lawn and ornamental plants in turf and plant bed areas associated with residential, governmental or commercial structures such as homes, schools, municipal/agency offices, banks, grocery stores, apartments, condominium common areas, hotels, restaurants, etc.

This certification does not allow or authorize the maintenance company or the applicator to operate a pest control business. It also does not allow the application of pesticides to turf or ornamentals, including pesticide/fertilizer mixtures and it does not allow supervision of non-certified fertilizer applicators.

Application is made directly to the Bureau and the applicant must submit proof of training under Chapter 403.9338, F.S., with the required fee (check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 made payable to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services).

Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certification

Chapter 482.157, Florida Statutes

The Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certification Program was designed to allow commercial wildlife trappers to exclude and trap (including glue boards) commensal rodents in, on or under structures. It does not allow wildlife management workers to make any kind of pesticide applications.

Examples of persons that are impacted by this regulation would include any commercial (for-hire) wildlife trapper wanting to control commensal rodents (rats/mice) in, on, or under structures. These structures can be residential, governmental or commercial structures such as homes, schools, municipal/agency offices, banks, grocery stores, apartments, condominium common areas, hotels, restaurants, etc.

This certification does not allow or authorize the wildlife company or the applicator to operate a pest control business.

Application is made to the Bureau with the required fee (check or money order in the amount of \$150 made payable to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) and, upon approval, an admission slip is provided to the applicant. The applicant makes arrangements with the local County Extension Service office to take the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management certification examination. The exam is then graded and certificates issued to applicants who successfully pass the examination and provide proof of minimum liability insurance (see below).

Also, prior to the issuance of the Limited Wildlife Management certification, an applicant will have to provide proof of insurance which indicates that their employer meets the minimum financial responsibility requirements for bodily injury and property damage. Presently, these amounts are set at: Bodily injury: \$250,000 each person and \$500,000 each occurrence; and property damage \$250,000 each occurrence and \$500,000 in the aggregate; or combined single limit coverage of \$500,000 in the aggregate.

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LIMITED CERTIFICATION APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE APPLICATORS

Chapter 482.155, Florida Statutes, requires that individuals applying both general use and restricted use pesticides as a governmental employee or as a private property owner or employee thereof must qualify to do such pesticide application by taking and passing a limited certification exam or be trained and supervised by a certified pest control operator certified by the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).

Examples of pesticide applicators that come under this measure would include individuals who apply pesticides to buildings or lawn and ornamentals associated with these buildings: government buildings (schools, agency offices, etc.), commercial buildings (banks, groceries, apartments, condominium common areas, hotels, restaurants, etc.).

There will be two categories of Limited Certification under this measure. They are Lawn and Ornamental Pest Control and Structural Pest Control. Each is treated individually and some persons will need both categories depending on where they will make pesticide applications.

Those individuals performing pest control upon their own individual residential property are exempted from these requirements.

Applicants must complete and submit form DACS 13610 with the examination fee of \$150. The Bureau will process and send an examination admission letter/receipt to your address that you will need to take to your local County Extension office for them to administer and proctor your exam. The examination will be given at least quarterly, or as necessary, at most County Extension offices.

Once issued, you will receive a renewal notice 45 days prior to your anniversary date (expiration date). You must complete and submit form, DACS 13683, with the recertification fee of \$25 and proof of having obtained four hours of acceptable continuing education, submitted on the attendance verification form, DACS 13325.

CERTIFICATION OBTAINED UNDER THIS SECTION DOES NOT AUTHORIZE A PERSON TO OPERATE A PEST CONTROL BUSINESS.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL SUGGESTED FOR STUDY IN PREPARATION FOR THE LIMITED CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The source and price of each reference are provided at the end of this list as indicated by the numbers in parentheses ().

REFERENCES FOR ALL LIMITED CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS:

The Structural Pest Control Act, Chapter 482, Florida Statutes (1)
Rules of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Chapter 5E-14, Florida
Administrative Code (1)
Applying Pesticides Correctly - A Guide for Pesticide Applicators (Revised 2010)-SM-1 (2a)

For Questions concerning labels, a label will be included for reference during examination.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES IN EACH CATEGORY:

LIMITED STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL

General Household Pest Control Applicator Training Manual – SM-47
Edited by Philip G. Koehler & William H. Kern, Jr. (2b)

LIMITED LAWN & ORNAMENTAL

Lawn and Ornamental Pest Management – SM-81 (2e)
Identification Guide to Common Florida Lawn and Ornamental Weeds, SP-499 - \$12.00 (2d)

Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida, June 2002, Florida Green Industries. Available free of charge at your local County extension office or it can be downloaded directly from: http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/BMP_manual.htm.

LIMITED COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance – SM-82 (2c)

Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida, June 2002, Florida Green Industries. Available free of charge at your local County extension office or it can be downloaded directly from: http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/BMP_manual.htm.

LIMITED COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Dealing with Unwanted Wildlife in an Urban Environment, Publication #WEC20

Available free of charge by downloading it directly from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw070>

Non-Chemical Rodent Control, Publication #ENY-243

Available free of charge by downloading it directly from:

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/76591/2214164/file/ratmousenonchemMG21800.pdf>

Rat and Mouse Control, Publication #ENY-224

Available free of charge by downloading it directly from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/dh044>

The Florida Mouse, Publication #WEC362

Available free of charge by downloading it directly from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw307>

SOURCE OF REFERENCE MATERIAL

(1) The Structural Pest Control Act, Chapter 482, Florida Statutes; the Rules of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Chapter 5E-14, Florida Administrative Code, are available at this link <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Environmental-Services> in the “Laws and Regulations” box on the right hand side of the page; OR upon request from the Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement, 3125 Conner Blvd, Bldg 8, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650, telephone (850) 617-7997.

(2) IFAS Manuals

- a. Applying Pesticides Correctly - A Guide for Pesticide Applicators, 7th Edition SM 1 - \$20.00
- b. General Household Pest Control Applicator Training Manual, SM 47 - \$30.00
- c. Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance, SM 82 - \$25.00
- d. Identification Guide to Common Florida Lawn and Ornamental Weeds, SP-499 - \$12.00
- e. Lawn and Ornamental Pest Management, SM-81 - \$25.00

All of the above under (2) are available from IFAS Publications, Building 664, Gainesville, Florida, 32611, telephone (800) 226-1764. Make Checks payable to University of Florida. Florida residents add the appropriate sales tax for the county in which you reside and the postage/handling costs as indicated below.

Schedule of Postage and Handling

Amount of Sale	Add
\$ 0 - 4.99	\$4
\$ 5 - 24.99	\$6
\$ 25 - 49.99	\$7
\$ 50 - 129.99	\$8

