Commercial Applicator Licenses - Do You Need One?

Who must have a license?

Do you:
- mix, load, or apply restricted use and/or general use pesticides for hire?
- mix, load, or apply restricted use pesticides with supervision (not on-site)?
- mix, load, or apply restricted use pesticides on your business property or your employer’s business property?
- apply restricted use pesticides as an employee of a government agency?
- supervise, on-site or off-site, anyone who mixes, loads or applies restricted use or general use pesticides?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you, your business, and your government agency need a pesticide applicator license.

Do you:
- mix, load, or apply restricted use or general use pesticides only with on-site supervision?
- mix, load, or apply only general use pesticides on your business property or your employer’s business property?
- scout and makes recommendations, but do not apply or work for someone who applies restricted use or general use pesticides?
- mix, load, or apply general use pesticides on land and crops you own or rent?
- mix, load, or apply general use pesticides on your employer’s land and crops?
- mix, load, or apply general use pesticides on someone else’s property without compensation?
- apply or supervise general use pesticide application at your home or other non-business property?
- apply only general use pesticides as an employee of a government agency?
If you answered yes to all of these questions but none of the others, you, your business and your government agency do not need a pesticide applicator license.

**What types of licenses are there and which one do I need?**

- **Commercial Applicator Business License** - This license is for any person operating a business that mixes, loads, or applies any type of pesticide for hire

- **Limited Commercial License** - This license is for any person who mixes, loads, or applies restricted use pesticides to his own or his employers business property

- **Public Applicator License** - This license is for any person who mixes, loads, or applies restricted use pesticides to any government agency

- **Certified Operator License** - This license is for an individual who mixes, loads, or applies restricted use and general use pesticides while under the supervision of a Qualified Supervisor. This does not have to be on-site supervision

- **Qualified Supervisor License** - This license is for anyone who mixes, loads, or applies any type of pesticide, makes recommendations, or supervises anyone who does these things. Every Commercial, Limited Commercial, and Public Applicator business or entity must have one Qualified Supervisor.

**References and Resources**

*Pesticide Applicators’ Act.* Title 35, Article 10, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO.  
[http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/PAA.pdf](http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/PAA.pdf)

*Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Pesticide Applicators’ Act.* Title 35, Article 10. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. [http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/PAA%20Rule.pdf](http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/PAA%20Rule.pdf)

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