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Cc: [Lloyd Knight](#); [Denise Lauerman](#)
Subject: IDAPA Rulemaking - Continuing Educational Credits
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 3:17:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

During the negotiated rulemaking meeting on 5/22, three possible solutions for continuing educational credits were proposed for pesticide applicator recertification. The three proposals varied in terms of the length of time required, the total number of credits to recertify, and the content of the courses. The requirements for continuing educational credits are outlined in 40 CFR 171.107(b).

Continuing education programs. A certified applicator may be found eligible for recertification upon successfully completing a continuing education program pursuant to the certifying authority's EPA-approved certification plan.

- (i) **The quantity, content, and quality of a continuing education program to maintain applicator certification must be sufficient to ensure the applicator continues to demonstrate the level of competency required by § 171.103 (§ 171.103 Standards for certification of commercial applicators) for commercial applicators or § 171.105 (§ 171.105 Standards for certification of private applicators.) for private applicators.**
- (ii) Any continuing education course or event relied upon for applicator recertification must be approved by the certifying authority as being suitable for its purpose in the certifying authority's recertification process.
- (iii) A certifying authority must ensure that any continuing education course or event, including an online or other distance education course or event, relied upon for applicator recertification includes a process to verify the applicator's successful completion of the course or event.

	Category Specific Courses
Washington	No
Idaho	No
Oregon	Yes / Core Credits / Aerial
Utah	Yes
Nevada	Yes
Montana	Yes
Wyoming	No

To meet requirement (i), States across the country have moved to requiring category specific training for applicators to recertify licenses. In the 2022 review of the ISDA's certification plan,

the EPA commented “How ID ensures category-specific competency standards through their recertification process.” There was considerable pushback from EPA on this issue, and it is still unclear if the plan under the current model will be approved.

In response to the comments and discussion during the rulemaking meeting, a hybrid option was created using (Option 2, 50 minutes per CEU, and 16 credits per 2 years) and (Option 3, category specific training) as an attempt to mutually satisfy the concerns of industry and to address the EPA’s push toward category specific training. With the proposed consolidation of categories in the 2024 draft rule, category specific training would be less burdensome than under the current categories. With the interest from industry and the EPA to amend the recertification process this may be a good time to address both issues.

Option 4

To recertify a license an applicator must accumulate 16 credits earned by attending accredited (1 CEU = 50-minutes of instruction) seminars. The credits must be comprised of a minimum of:

- 8 Core credits
- 2 credits per category held.
- Once a license holder has earned the 2 credits per category, the remaining credits may be earned in any category.
 - Example #1 – License 12345 – CO, OP
 - 8 Core credits
 - 2 Ornamental Pest credits
 - 6 credits from any ISDA approved seminar with any designation
 - TOTAL = 16 credits
 - Example #2 – License 12346 – CO, AC, RW
 - 8 Core
 - 2 Agricultural Crop credits
 - 2 Right Away credits
 - 4 credits from any ISDA approved seminar with any designation.
 - TOTAL = 16 credits
 - Example #3 – License 12347 – CO, IP, OP, NS, AP
 - 8 Core credits
 - 2 Industrial Pest credits
 - 2 Ornamental Pest credits
 - 2 Non-Soil Fumigation credits
 - 2 Aquatic Pest credits
 - TOTAL = 16 credits
 - Example #4 – License 12348 – CO, AC, AF, AP, CH, FP, LP, NS, RP, SF
 - 8 Core credits
 - 2 Agricultural Pest credits
 - 2 Anti-Fouling Coating credits
 - 2 Aquatic Pest credits
 - 2 Chemigation credits
 - 2 Forest Pest credits
 - 2 Livestock Pest credits
 - 2 Non-Soil Fumigation credits
 - 2 Regulatory Pest credits
 - 2 Soil Fumigation credits
 - TOTAL = 26 credits

*If a license holder earns the 8 Core credits, and earns the 16 credits, but fails to earn credits specific to one or more categories held, the license will be issued, but the categories where credits were not earned will not be on the newly issued license, and the license holder will have to retest to become certified in those deficient categories.

From a report taken from the ISDA licensing database in May 2023, after the proposed category consolidation, of the 4254 professional license holders only 133 (3%) would hold more than five categories, and of those only 13 licensees hold more than nine categories, six of which are government employees.

# of Categories	Licensed Applicators
1	323
2	1528
3	1066
4	705
5	499
6	80
7	23
8	17
9	3
10	2
11	2
12	2
16	2
18	2
Grand Total	4254

If there is interest in forming a work group to discuss the CEU process prior to the 6/29/23 rulemaking meeting, please respond to this email **by the end of business on 6/13/23**.

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