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Information on Pesticide and Chemigation Rules

As a result of the 2026 Rulemaking process, there have been changes to Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application (IDAPA 02.03.03). Please see information and FAQs below to help you navigate these changes. Changes begin on July 1, 2026. *If you have further questions or concerns, please contact ISDA Ag Resources at 208-332-8605 or pesticideinformation@isda.idaho.gov.*

Why are there changes to Idaho’s Pesticide and Chemigation Rules? While there were major updates to rule in 2024 to meet federal certification and training (C&T) requirements, ISDA has held negotiated rulemaking meetings in 2024 and 2025. These rulemaking meetings were heavily driven by requested updates from stakeholders and industry partners to improve regulations that were not impacted by changes for C&T requirements. The proposed changes were approved legislatively in 2026.

Summary of Changes

2026 rule amendments are largely related to applicator license terms and license categories. Specifically, changes include:

1. License terms of 5 years;
2. Updates to Commercial Apprentice licenses and non-certified pesticide applicators;
3. Updates to license categories;
4. Requirements for using aerial unmanned drones.

For additional details, see the tables below or go to our website at agri.idaho.gov/pesticides

1. License Terms	
What licenses will move to a 5-year license term?	Professional Applicator; Dealer; Private Applicator; Chemigation Applicator
When will my license term change?	Current license terms last up to two (2) years. When current license holders renew their license, it will then move to a 5-year term. New licenses issued after June 30, 2026, will be on a 5-year term.
Does the first letter of my last name matter anymore? Odd/Even years?	NOPE! Your license will expire 5 years from renewal.
Will my renewal month change?	For many license holders, yes. For Professional Applicators and Dealers, the five-year recertification period will go from January 1 to December 31. For all Private Applicators and Chemigation Applicators the five-year recertification period will go from April 1 to March 31.

Will my Dealer License sync with my Professional Applicator License?	Yes. Either through an initial issuance, or to align during a renewal event, Dealer licenses will 'prorate' a shorter license term to sync with their prerequisite Professional Applicator License.
How many credits do I need?	<p>For those who have yet to renew, current credits requirements still apply. For two-year periods: 16 for professionals, 7 for Private; 1 Chemigation Training for Chemigators.</p> <p>Credits for a 5-year term: 40 credits for Professional Applicator (an average of 8 per year);</p> <p>15 credits for Private Applicators (an average of 3 per year); 1 Chemigation Training for Chemigators.</p> <p>Credits are like current credit/year average, just over a longer period.</p>
When can I get my credits?	You can get your credits anytime during the 5-year recertification period. There are no annual minimums or maximums.
Are license fees increasing?	<p>No. We maintained the base annual cost for licenses and multiplied that out to 5 years.</p> <p>Example: Professional = \$60 annually, or \$120 for 2 years (previous term cost), or \$300 for 5 years.</p> <p>5-year fees: Private - \$25 Chemigation - \$50 Dealer - \$250 (or \$50/yr prorated) Professional - \$300</p>

2. Commercial Apprentice License (CA)

Is the license term changing?	Currently, the CA license expires one year from the time that the license is issued. As of July 1 st , a CA license will expire two years from the time that the license was issued.
Can I renew my CA License?	<p>No, you cannot renew a (CA) license. This category is specifically designed as an entry position for new applicators to quickly obtain licensure while maintaining safety and limited supervision.</p> <p>Prior to expiration, commercial apprentices must pass an exam for an additional category and submit a Professional Applicator license application along with the appropriate fee.</p>
When does my license start?	Commercial Apprentices must pass the core exam (CO) and then apply for the license. The Commercial Apprentice license will be active upon the date that it is issued by the ISDA.
What if I applied for a license before July 1st, 2026? Do I get 2 years or 1? What if I test before July 1st and	As of July 1, 2026, current active CA license holders will automatically have the expiration of the 1-year license extended to 2 years.

don't apply for the license until after the 1st?	New issuances of CA licenses will automatically be on the 2-year term.
Was there an update to the allowed categories to be supervised under?	Commercial Apprentices may apply general use pesticides under limited supervision under all other categories with exception to either Fumigation or Aerial license categories (AA, AU, NS, SF), so long as the supervising Professional Applicator holds those categories. Commercial Apprentices still cannot apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs).
How many Commercial Apprentices can one Professional Applicator supervise with limited supervision?	A Professional Applicator can supervise no more than 2 Commercial Apprentices with limited supervision.
What documentation does a company need to have to establish they are following the 1 Professional to 2 Apprentices requirement?	Companies will need to maintain a roster of Professional Applicators actively apprenticing Commercial Apprentices. The roster must detail that each Professional Applicator is not supervising more than two Commercial Apprentices.
What documentation do Commercial Apprentices need to maintain?	On the initial license application, Commercial Apprentices will need to identify the name and license number of the Professional Applicator who will be actively apprenticing them. During the license term, if there is a change in the supervising Professional Applicator, the Commercial Apprentice must notify the ISDA of the change.

3. License Categories	
What is changing?	Right of Way Herbicide (RW) is being renamed to Right of Way Pest Control (RW) to provide requested clarity in the category name and description. Wood Preservative (WP) and Potato Cellar (PC) categories are being offered again. These will be subcategories of the relevant Industrial, Institutional (IP or CP) which will continue to align with the federal requirements. For those applicators that are exclusively conducting WP or PC applications, this will provide greater accessibility to obtaining a license. Aerial UAS Pest Control (AU) is a new category for unmanned drone applications. Applicators who are conducting applications with drones will also be required to have additional relevant site categories – more information in the next section.
If I am making wood preservative pesticide applications, what category do I need?	If an applicator is exclusively performing wood preservation applications, they can take the singular WP exam and receive the WP category along with prerequisite Core Competency (CO) category.

	<p>For additional pesticide application capacity they can take the more extensive IP or CP exam and still be able to apply wood preservative pesticides and much more.</p> <p>Current IP/CP category holders won't need to take the WP exam.</p>
<p>If I am making a potato cellar, or onion shed pesticide applications, what category do I need?</p>	<p>If an applicator is exclusively performing potato cellar or onion shed applications, they can take the singular PC exam and receive the PC category along with the prerequisite Core Competency (CO) category.</p> <p>For additional pesticide application capacity they can take the more extensive CP exam to perform commodity applications beyond potato cellars/onion sheds.</p> <p>Current CP category holders won't need to take the PC exam</p>
<p>When will exams be available for the new categories?</p>	<p>Study material for WP and PC is already available, and new exams are projected to be available on July 1, 2026.</p> <p>Study material and exams for AU are also projected to be available on July 1, 2026.</p>
<p>Will exams for IP and CP be updated to reflect the changes?</p>	<p>There will be an update to reflect the WP and PC category changes. As IP and CP are superseding categories, however, some relevant content may remain. We do not have a timetable for these updates as of yet.</p>

4. Drones	
<p>What is changing?</p>	<p>Regulations for drone application work have been added to Idaho's Pesticide Rule effective July 1, 2026. This includes definitions, licensing requirements, and use restrictions.</p>
<p>What is considered a drone?</p>	<p>'Drones' or Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs) are any aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.</p> <p>Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) include UAV(s) and associated elements including communication links and components that control the unmanned aircraft that are required for the pilot to operate.</p>
<p>Can I operate a drone but have a licensed applicator with me?</p>	<p>We consider the person piloting or operating UAS an applicator. The operator must be also a licensed applicator.</p>
<p>Will I have to be on site when applying by drone?</p>	<p>Yes. The licensed applicator/operator must be on site during the application.</p>
<p>Doesn't my Part 107/Part 137 license cover pesticide applications?</p>	<p>Part 107/Part 137 licenses fall under Federal Aviation Administration regulations. These are separate. A pesticide applicator license does not cover federal flight/drone certification requirements. FAA licenses do not cover Idaho license requirements for pesticide applications.</p>

	<p>Drone operators will need to be aware of the differences and distinctions of state and federal requirements for operating drones.</p> <p>All UAS operations for pesticide applications must also comply with other applicable state or federal regulations.</p>
Why split the AA Category?	The AA exam and study material focuses specifically on manned aircraft. Technology for unmanned aircraft and applications are continuing to develop and are distinct enough from traditional aerial applications a separate exam and category are warranted. The exam and study material will be specifically for drone applicators.
What if I have the AA Category and only do Drone applications?	<p>Anyone who currently holds the (AA) category and is making drone applications will be grandfathered into the (AU) category up until July 1st, 2026. Please contact ISDA to update your license.</p> <p>New drone applicators, or applicators who neglect to renew their license, will need to obtain the base competency category, the (AU) category, AND any relevant site categories.</p> <p>Examples: Professional drone operators making applications to an agricultural field will need CO, AU, and Ag Crop (AC). Private applicators making drone applications in an agricultural field will need Private Applicator (PA) and AU.</p>
Do I need a license as a private applicator to apply general use pesticides via drone?	Yes. While general use pesticides applications by a private applicator do not typically require a license, it is prohibited to apply ANY pesticide by UAS without first obtaining an applicator license with the AU category.

5. Other Questions	
Will there be grace periods for individuals unaware of rule changes?	While the updates rules take effect on July 1, 2026, ISDA's immediate focus is committed to working with industry to bridge information gaps and provide the technical resources necessary to meet these new standards, ensuring both applicator success and public safety.
Will ISDA adjust enforcement timelines during the grandfathering process?	ISDA is prioritizing educational outreach and technical guidance. We will work closely with applicators to resolve knowledge gaps.
Were there any other updates?	There were minor requested clarifying updates to restricted use supervision and the seminar credit approval process.
Will any of these changes impact my current renewal timeframes?	For those applicators who expire in July 2026 needing to renew, please be aware that self-service and early renewal options may be limited or unavailable during June 2026. This will allow ISDA to update internal systems for licensing processes.