

South Dakota Commercial CERTIFICATION Categories for Pesticide Applicators & Dealers

(For further clarification contact the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture & Environmental Services, at 605-773-4432 or 605-773-3296)

Current as of 09/01/2024

- G. **General.** Commercial APPLICATORS (using pesticides in South Dakota) and commercial DEALERS (distributing restricted use pesticides in South Dakota) must pass this **core** category exam to become eligible for a South Dakota commercial pesticide applicator license and/or pesticide dealer license. Note: Commercial APPLICATORS must **also** pass any additional category exams that pertain to the type of pesticide applications they will be making in South Dakota:
1. **Agricultural Plant pest control.** Commercial applicators using pesticides (*herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.*) on cropland capable of producing agricultural commodities (such as grains, soybeans, feed, forage, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, nuts, etc.) as well as on grassland and non-crop agriculture lands must pass this category exam. Note: Passing this category exam does NOT include the use of products for rodent control (see category 12).
 2. **Agricultural Animal pest control.** Commercial applicators using pesticides on livestock (such as beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, poultry, horses, goats, etc.) OR on or in places intended for livestock confinement (such as barns, feed yards, pens, etc.) must pass this category exam. Note: Passing this category exam does NOT include the use of products for predator control (see category 13) and does NOT include the use of products for fumigation (see category 14).
 3. **Forest pest control.** Commercial applicators using pesticides in larger tracks of trees (such as forests, forest nurseries, and forest seed-producing areas) must pass this category exam. Note: Passing this category exam does NOT include the use of products for protection of ornamental trees (see category 4).
 4. **Ornamental & Turf pest control.** Commercial applicators using pesticides on turf areas (mowed, maintained areas such as athletic fields, cemeteries, golf courses, lawns, parks, etc.) and the ornamental plants (trees, shrubs, flowers, etc.) within those turf areas OR on plants grown within cultivation or grow structures (greenhouses, plant nurseries, etc.) must pass this category exam.
 5. **Seed Treatment.** Commercial applicators using pesticides on seed must pass this category exam.
 6. **Aquatic pest control.** Commercial applicators purposefully applying pesticides to standing or running water, excluding applicators involved in public health pest control, must pass this category exam.
 7. **Right-of-Way pest control.** Commercial applicators using pesticides in the maintenance of parking lots OR rights-of-way areas (such as public roads, roadside areas, electric power lines, pipelines, railway lines, telecommunication lines, etc.) must pass this category exam.
 8. **Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health Related pest control.** Commercial applicators using pesticides in or around food-handling establishments (such as packing houses, food processing facilities, etc.) OR in human dwellings OR in institutions (such as schools, hospitals, prisons, etc.) OR in industrial

establishments (such as manufacturing facilities, warehouses, grain elevators, etc.) OR in structures adjacent to areas public or private must pass this category exam. Passing this category exam includes the use of pesticides for the control of rodents and birds in or around structures. Note: Passing this category exam does NOT include the use of pesticides in government-sponsored public health programs (see category 9) and passing this category exam does NOT include the use of products for fumigation (see category 14).

9. **Public Health pest control**. Government employees (such as tribal, state, federal, county, city, etc.) or contracted commercial applicators using pesticides in government-sponsored public health programs to control pests (vectors) having medical and public health importance (such as mosquitos and ticks that spread disease, fleas in prairie dog towns that spread plague, etc.) must pass this category exam.
10. **Regulatory pest control**. REPEALED in S.D. in 2023. Note: Commercial applicators must pass other category exams that pertain to the type of pesticide applications they will be making in South Dakota.
11. **Demonstration pest control**. REPEALED in S.D. in 2023. Note: Commercial applicators must pass other category exams that pertain to the type of pesticide applications they will be making in South Dakota.
12. **Rodent control**. Commercial applicators using pesticides in the control of vertebrates invading sites other than man-made structures must pass this category exam. Note: Passing this category exam does NOT include the use of products for fumigation (see category 14).
13. **Sodium Cyanide Predator control**. All applicators (including private applicators) who use sodium cyanide in a mechanical ejection device to control regulated predators must pass this category exam. Note: Testers must contact the South Dakota Dept of Ag & Natural Resources to take this category exam and to attend the additional training required for this category.
14. **Non-soil Fumigation pest control**. All applicators (including private applicators) who use pesticides to fumigate buildings, structures, or enclosed spaces (permanently or occasionally occupied by humans) OR to fumigate commodities stored in grain bins or in transit (such as rail cars, vehicles, vessels, etc.) OR to fumigate burrows of rodents (vertebrates) must pass this category exam. Note: Passing this category does NOT include the use of products for soil fumigation (see category 1).
15. **Wood Preservative pest control**. Commercial applicators who use pesticides to control pests that damage or destroy wood (such as utility poles, lumber products, etc.) must pass this category exam. Note: Passing this category exam does NOT include the use of products for fumigation (see category 14).
16. **Livestock protection collar**. REPEALED in S.D. in 2015
17. **Aerial pest control**. All applicators (including private applicators) who use pesticides aerially must pass this category exam. Notes: Commercial aerial applicators must pass the category G – General (core) exam PLUS any additional category exams that pertain to the type of pesticide applications they will be making. All aerial applicators, including drone operators, must hold a valid FAA license.