

Summary of Pesticide Application Certification Requirements

The application of pesticides is regulated by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Pesticide Control Program (PCP). Lead staff members involved with the application of herbicides must become 'commercial pesticide applicators', which requires attendance in a one day course on pesticide safety, passing PCP's core exam and at least one PCP category exam, and completing 40 hours of on-the-job training for a particular category of pesticide application. There are two pesticide application categories that cover any potential applications in natural areas and organizational staff would be required to pass both category exams along with the core exam. These categories include Category 2: Forest Pest Control and Category 5: Aquatic Pest Control. The PCP may waive on-the-job training requirements if it can be shown that an organization currently does not have anyone certified in these two categories to provide training.

Staff (including interns or regular volunteers) may opt to become 'certified pesticide operators', which are required to attend the one day training course on pesticide safety and receive 40 hours of on-the-job training for each category of pesticide application. Operators are not required to pass any examinations and must be directly supervised by a certified pesticide applicator. According to regulations, direct supervision beyond the 40 hour on-the-job training consists of operators being within "very timely voice contact" and within "three travel hours by land". Staff members or volunteers that are not certified applicators or certified operators may still apply herbicides if a certified applicator is always physically present and in the line-of-sight of the non-certified staff member or volunteer.

The PCP also requires a permit for any wetland applications of pesticides. Currently, this involves a simple reporting form and an associated \$75 fee. In some cases, the PCP may require an additional permit from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection - Division of Land Use when control work is deemed to significantly alter the vegetative structure of a wetland (e.g., removal of significant invasive shrub cover to promote emergent wetland).

For more information:

<http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/PAT/index.htm>