

Private Applicator Certification (PAC)

California and Federally Restricted Use Pesticides may only be used by or have the use supervised by a certified applicator. In California, persons holding a qualified license or certificate issued by the Department of Pesticide Regulation or a Private Applicator Certificate issued by the county agricultural commissioner's office are certified applicators.

To become a certified private applicator, a person must come into our office, take and pass a written examination with a minimum score of 70%. There is no fee for taking the examination, obtaining the certification card, or renewing the certification by passing the written examination.

The examination is available in both English and Spanish. The only part of the Spanish examination written in English is the pesticide label. Federal law requires all certified applicators to be able to read and understand the registered labeling.

The study guide for the PAC examination is the publication:

Pesticide Safety - A Reference Manual for Private Applicators, Publication 3383. (English);

Seguridad en el manejo de pesticidas, Publication 3394 (Spanish).

This publication may be purchased from the local Agricultural Commissioner's Office; or by ordering from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources website at: <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu>; or by writing to:

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