



# Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada

## Why are pesticide education, training and certification important?

Education of those individuals who sell and apply pesticides is a key element in promoting the responsible use of pesticides to protect human health and the environment.

The provinces/territories are responsible for the training and testing of applicators and vendors. Applicators must pass an exam to show they know how to use pesticides safely and effectively, including following the label instructions, considering pest management principles and using proper application techniques. Vendors must also pass an exam to show they know how to advise customers appropriately based on the product label and how to handle pesticides safely including storing product and cleaning up spills. The provinces/territories certify individuals who pass these exams as they have demonstrated they know the basic requirements for responsible pesticide use. These knowledge requirements are outlined in the Standard for Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada.

## What is the Standard for Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada?

The Standard for Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada (referred to as the National Standard) is a series of documents which

outline the structure and criteria for provincial/territorial certification programs. It is made up of 3 main parts:

**Framework:** The Framework is an overview document which describes the development, purpose, scope and parts of the National Standard. It also includes information on common terminology associated with certification, pesticide certification categories, basic knowledge requirements for applicators and vendors, criteria for their certification and re-certification, and provincial/territorial reciprocity requirements.

**Applicator Basic Knowledge Requirements:** This part outlines the knowledge required to use pesticides. It is made up of the Applicator Core and 10 category specific modules. The Applicator Core contains information relevant to all pesticide applicators. The category specific modules contain information related to the following specialized areas of application:

- ◆ Aerial,
- ◆ Agriculture,
- ◆ Aquatic Vegetation,
- ◆ Forestry,
- ◆ Fumigation,
- ◆ Greenhouse,
- ◆ Industrial Vegetation,
- ◆ Landscape,
- ◆ Mosquito and Biting Flies,
- ◆ Structural.

## Vendor/Dispenser Basic Knowledge

**Requirements:** This part outlines the knowledge required to sell pesticides. The Vendor/Dispenser Core contains information relevant to all vendors. The Vendor/Dispenser Module contains additional information for vendors who sell federally registered commercial and restricted pesticides.

The National Standard is available on the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's web site at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/edutran/edutran-e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/edutran/edutran-e.html).

## How is the National Standard being implemented?

The National Standard was released in 1995 and adopted by all Canadian provinces and territories. It is being implemented as time and resources permit, however most provinces and territories have incorporated many of the elements of the National Standard into their certification programs.

## What are the benefits of the National Standard?

Development of the National Standard has resulted in more uniform pesticide education across Canada. Certification programs based on the National Standard have been developed by experts in pesticide safety so they incorporate the best possible information on proper pesticide use, including pest management methods to reduce

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reliance on pesticides. By implementing the concepts of the National Standard, applicators and vendors are using and handling pesticides responsibly and reducing risk.

The National Standard has also enabled the development of reciprocity agreements which allow applicators to have their certification recognized by other provinces/territories. Pesticide regulators and trainers participating in the development of the National Standard also benefit through the sharing of resources, experience and expertise.

## Who is responsible for the National Standard?

The Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WGPETC) is responsible for the National Standard and related pesticide education initiatives.

The WGPETC is made up of federal, provincial and territorial representatives involved in pesticide regulation or education and reports to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides. WGPETC also works with professional applicator associations, medical organizations and other stakeholders in developing and updating the National Standard.

## Where can I get more information?

For information on the National Standard or the Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification, contact:

- ◆ The Pest Management Regulatory Agency web site at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/edutran/edutran-e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/edutran/edutran-e.html)
- ◆ Your provincial pesticide regulatory agency
- ◆ The Pest Management Information Service  
Telephone: 1-800-267-6315  
From outside Canada: (613) 736-3799\*  
\*Long distance charges apply.  
Fax: (613) 736-3798  
Internet: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla)  
Address: 2720 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9

Pesticide Education and Certification is reducing risk to:

- ◆ the applicator
- ◆ the environment
- ◆ the public

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