

Licensing of Wood Treatment Pesticide Applicators in Florida¹

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This document explains the licensing and regulation of persons who apply restricted use wood treatment pesticides in Florida as regulated by the Florida Pesticide Law (Chapter 487), and administered by the Florida Department of Consumer Services.

Wood Treatment Pest Control

All persons who use or supervise the use of wood preservative pesticides, or other pesticides requiring licensure, in wood treatment facilities in the production of treated wood products must have a pesticide applicator license issued by the Bureau of Compliance Monitoring/Pesticide Certification Section. The Wood Treatment category does not include the use or supervision of restricted use fumigant pesticides. This category is regulated by the Florida Pesticide Law (Florida Statutes, Chapter 487).

Category Certification Standards

Applicators seeking a license in this category must demonstrate practical knowledge of:

- using wood preservatives;
- air monitoring procedures;
- personal protective clothing and equipment;
- hygiene, related health and safety measures;
- emergency procedures; and
- practices necessary to prevent environmental contamination.

License classification

Certified wood treatment applicators may be licensed as either public applicators or commercial applicators. These are the major differences:

- **A public applicator** is a licensed applicator employed by a public or governmental agency. The license is only valid when performing work

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for the public or governmental agency. The public applicator fee for a four-year license is \$100.

- **A commercial applicator** is a licensed applicator who is licensed to apply restricted-use pesticides on any property provided they are certified in the category for which the applications are made. A commercial applicator is usually a contract applicator. The commercial applicator fee for a four-year license is \$250.

Examinations

Persons must successfully complete two examinations before they can apply to the Department for a license. These examinations are a Core examination and the Wood Treatment category examination. The Core examination may be taken at any University of Florida IFAS County Extension Office. The Wood Treatment category examination may be taken at a University of Florida IFAS County Extension Office that offers category examinations. No special qualifications must be met to take the examination. There is no fee to take the examinations.

Study materials

Manuals and study materials for Core and Wood Treatment applicators who will be taking exams may be obtained from the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore by calling 1-800-226-1764 or on-line at <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/>. The content of the Core exam is based upon the manual, *Applying Pesticides Correctly* (Figure 1). The content of the Wood Treatment exam is based upon the manual, *The Preservation of Wood* (Figure 2). Sample labels may be obtained from suppliers of pesticide products.

Recertification

Applicators must recertify every four years. To recertify, applicators may take the examinations again or attend training and obtain 4 continuing education units (CEUs) approved for the Wood Treatment category and 4 CEUs approved for the Core category. Core CEUs can't be used to meet the required Wood Treatment CEUs. No substitutions of other types of

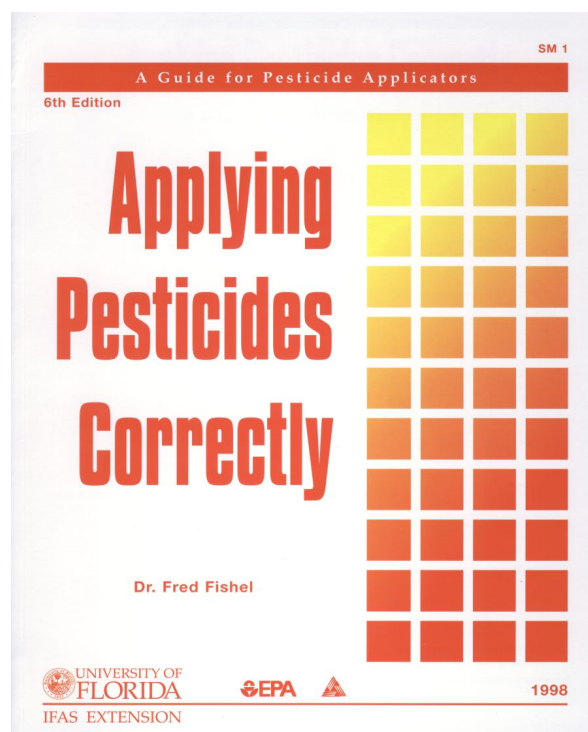


Figure 1. Applying Pesticides Correctly

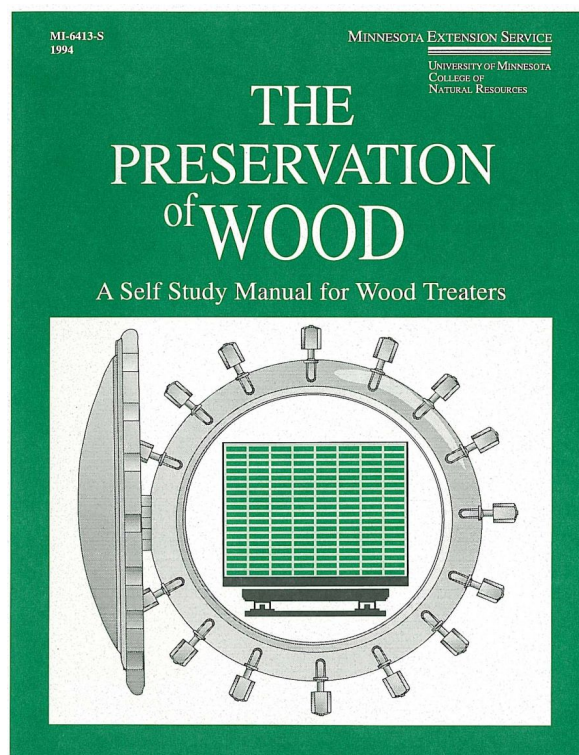


Figure 2. The Preservation of Wood

CEUs are allowed. Opportunities to earn CEUs may be found at <http://www.flaes.org/>.

Restricted use pesticides applied in the Wood Treatment category

32611-0710, Phone: 352-392-4721,
<http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/> (accessed July 22, 2010).

Table 1 lists Florida's registered restricted use pesticides at the time of this writing that are applied in the Wood Treatment category and the reason for the restricted classification. A complete listing of all restricted use pesticides in Florida may be viewed at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI073>.

Table 1. Restricted use wood treatment pesticides in Florida.

Pesticide Common Name	Criteria for RUP
Bis (tributyltin) oxide	Toxicity to aquatic organisms including shellfish
CCA	Acute toxicity and because it contains arsenic and/or chromium compounds some types of which have been associated with tumor development in humans
Pentachlorophenol	Fetotoxicity and oncogenicity in laboratory animals

Additional information

Fishel, F.M. 2005. Pesticide toxicity profile: wood treatment pesticides. UF/IFAS EDIS Fact Sheet PI-92, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI129>

Fishel, F.M. 2005. Restricted use pesticides. UF/IFAS EDIS Fact Sheet PI-36, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI073> .

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Bureau of Compliance Monitoring, Pesticide Licensing Section, 3125 Conner Drive, Bldg. 8, L-29, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650, Phone: 850-488-3314, <http://www.flaes.org/complimonitoring/index.html> (accessed July 22, 2010).

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