

Continuing Education Credit System for the Recertification of Pesticide Applicators Certificates – *some recent updates and improvement to the administration*

1. Renewal Requirements

- a) A grower must obtain an initial five-year certification by writing an exam.
- b) At the expiry of the five-year certificate, the grower may renew in two ways: by writing the exam or by redeeming Pesticide Applicators Certification continuing education credits (also called PAC points).
- c) To renew with PAC points, you must have a current five year certification. One year certificates are not eligible for renewal with PAC points.
- d) A maximum of 12 months elapsed time is allowed between expiry of a certificate and renewal with PAC points. Growers always have the opportunity to renew by writing an exam – telephone 250-354-6104 for information.
- e) PAC points expire after 5 years.

2. PAC Categories

A total of 20 credits are required for renewal, with 3 credits in each of three categories: (A, B, and C below). To obtain credits, growers attend courses and sign an attendance sheet. Some points are also awarded for first aid or sprayer calibration certificates. On-line courses are now available for credit.

3. How to find out about courses that provide PAC credits

There are several ways to obtain PAC credits (sometimes called PAC points). Examples of continuing education events which provide PAC points:

- a) **BCFGA Horticultural Forum (mid-November).**
- b) **OPFG Fieldman's**
- c) **South Valley Sales Seminar (March)**
- d) **Tree Fruit Production Guide Sessions (April)**
- e) **Blossom meetings (April)**
- f) **Sprayer calibration by a third party (contact your fieldman or horticultural consultant).**
- g) **WCB Level 1 First Aid or higher.**
- h) **New this year, you may register for an on-line course delivered by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). The Western Canadian Turf Grass Association has taken the lead in obtaining credits for these course, which cover generic PAC point topics. The courses available, the PAC credits assigned to the course, and how to register for the course are located on the web-page www.wctaturf.com/topics/opportunities.html**

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4. PAC Categories

A. Safety and Environment Protection

- pesticide labels and label comprehension
- legislation
- toxicity
- emergency response (first aid, spills, fires)
- protective clothing and equipment
- effects of pesticides on the environment
- safe procedures for storage, mixing, transport
- application, clean-up, disposal
- WCB Level 1 First Aid or higher (maximum 2 credits per grower per renewal) or respiratory training

B. Application Technology

- equipment selection
- proper equipment set-up, use and maintenance
- equipment calibration and pesticide use calculations
- pesticide products and factors affecting their use and performance
- sprayer calibration by third party (maximum 2 credits for airblast sprayer and 2 credits for weed sprayer per grower per renewal)

C. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- monitoring methods
- action and injury levels
- management methods, including pesticide alternative and decision making
- evaluation of results

5. Further Information

For further information on the Continuing Education Credit System for the Recertification of Pesticide Applicators Certificates, contact the BCFGA at 762-5226 or 1-800-619-9022.

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