



Delivering a **Healthy WA**



Guide to Obtaining a Pesticide Operator's Licence Environmental Health Guide

This guide applies to persons requiring a licence to apply pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, molluscicides and algaecides.

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There is a two-tiered system of licensing pesticide operators in Western Australia. This system was designed to meet the requirements of industry, government and the community.

To work in the pest management industry for gain or reward, a person must hold either a Provisional or Full Pesticide Operator's Licence. Where a person holds a licence they must be employed by a registered commercial pesticide firm or register their own commercial pesticide firm.

A pesticide operator holding a Provisional Licence may register a new firm, or purchase an existing firm. However they must employ a person who holds a Full Licence, until such time as the owner obtains their own Full Pesticide Operator's Licence.

For further information on qualifications, training, the issuing of operator licences and firm registration please contact the Pesticide Safety Branch, 1A Brockway Rd, Mt Claremont 6010 on phone (08) 9383 4244 or fax (08) 9383 1819 or pesticidesafety@health.wa.gov.au.

It is an offence to use any pesticide not notated on your licence. Once a licence has been issued, only the pesticides endorsed on the licence may be applied. Further pesticides may be added on written request, however an interview may be required.

Licence and Firm Registration Fees

A fee* is payable by those who hold a Provisional and Full licence. Full licences are subject to annual renewal at the 30 June of each year. Provisional licences are current for a period of 12 months from the date of issue.

An annual fee* is payable by those who register a commercial pesticide firm. Firm registration is also subject to renewal at the 30 June each year.

These fees are subject to an annual review.

Both operator's licences and firm registrations may have 'conditions' of approval endorsed on them and are enforceable by law.

* Licence Fees are currently set at \$140 and \$280 for Firm registration. Fees are reviewed annually and subject to change without notice. For current fees contact Pesticide Safety.



Licences

Different categories of Full Licence exist, and set out clearly what areas of pest control the holder can work in. Licences are restricted to certain areas of operation or categories, depending on the qualifications the applicant has obtained.

A list of courses and training providers is located at the end of this document.

BEFORE ENROLLING IN A COURSE, it is advisable to contact the Pesticide Safety Branch on (08) 9383 4244 to discuss your particular circumstances.

Do Not Enrol In A Course Unless You Are Sure It Is Suitable For Your Needs.

Salespersons

All salespersons must be licensed if giving advice on the use of pesticides. Unit 6 - Apply pesticide to manage pests, from the Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) Training Package, or equivalent must be completed to gain a licence.

On successful completion of the module, an applicant may apply for a Full licence, restricted to 'Sales' only. This licence is restricted to giving advice on chemical use only. NO HANDLING, MIXING or APPLICATION of pesticides is allowed to occur.

General Pest Control: Termites, Domestic Pests, Commercial/Industrial Pests

1. Provisional Licence

A Provisional licence is required to be obtained prior to the application of registered pesticides for termite control and commercial/domestic pests. Unit 6 from the Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) training package must be successfully completed in order to apply for a licence. The module is offered by a number of training providers which are listed at the back of this document. The module can be completed by either face to face or external delivery.

NOTE: Completing the module does not mean that you are licensed.

To apply for a licence you must:

- Complete the approved application form, applying for a 'Provisional' licence and pay the licence fee. Applicants must be over 17 years of age and medically fit. Verification of this may be required.
- For the first month after obtaining a Provisional licence, you must work under the direct supervision of a person who holds a Full licence.
- This means that the person with a Full licence must work alongside you at all times you are handling pesticides and must sign your **log sheets**. Original log sheets for this period are to be forwarded to the Pesticide Safety Branch.
- After the first month of you obtaining your licence you may work on your own, although receiving instructions and ongoing training from a person who holds a Full licence. This person must be responsible for your work and must sign your **log sheets** showing the level of supervision you received until you gain your full licence.

A Provisional licence is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. An extension of another 12 months may be granted in order to allow the license holder to complete the required competencies to obtain a Full licence.

2. Full Licence

In order to be upgraded from Provisional to Full, licence holders are required to complete Certificate 111 from the Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) Training Package.

NOTE: On completion of the required competencies, you must apply to the Pesticide Safety Branch for your licence to be upgraded. A copy of your Certificate or Statement of Attainment must be forwarded together with a copy of your **log sheets** (see above) if you have not already done so.



Broadhectare or Forestry Pest Control

To obtain a licence to undertake work in broadhectare agricultural situations or forestry work, the following minimum competencies must be successfully completed.

- RTC3704A Prepare and Apply Chemicals
- RTC3705A Transport, Handle and Store Chemicals
- RTC3404A Control Plant Pests, Diseases and Disorders
- RTC4701A Minimise Risks in the Use of Chemicals
- RTC4703A Plan and Implement a Chemical Use Programme

The following courses currently offer these competencies.

Option I

- Contract Applicators' course conducted by Pest Education Services and Training in conjunction with the Kondinin Group.

Option II

- Contract Applicators course conducted by SMARTtrain.

Option III

- Contract Applicators' course conducted by Challenger TAFE.
This course can be completed either by attending a four day full time class at Murdoch campus or appropriate facility, or by correspondence followed by one full day assessment.

Option IV

- Prepare and Apply Chemicals', (or its equivalent) 'Control Weeds' and 'Weed Control in field crops and Pastures', by correspondence through SA TAFE. Competencies are from Certificate III Conservation & Land Management package.

On completion of the course, a Full License may be issued restricting the person to the treatment of pests in crops and pastures only, excluding all commercial or domestic pest control operations.

NOTE: Applicants who complete option IV should consider undertaking the correspondence course 'Weed Control in Non Cropping Situations'. This is optional, though strongly recommended.

Temporary Licences

To obtain a temporary licence in either Broadhectare or Forestry, the following is required:

- 'Risk Management in Pesticide Use', conducted by ChemCert.
- AND
- Previous experience in the use of pesticides. Applicants will be required to provide verification of past experience.

Where a temporary licence is granted, a condition will be placed on the licence requiring the holder to complete a Contract Applicators course or correspondence courses within 12 months of the licence being issued.

Pest and weed control in Horticulture, Viticulture, Lawn and Garden and Non-Cropping situations

If you are engaged in any of the above areas of horticulture or viticulture, there are several course options available. On successful completion of one of the following courses, you may apply for a FULL licence.

Option I

- 'Horticultural Pesticides' is a part-time module.

NOTE: 'Horticultural Pesticides' is also approved as an alternative to 'Unit 6' as a prerequisite to further training as listed at the back of this document.



Option II

- 'Prepare and apply chemicals', (or its equivalent) 'Control Weeds' and 'Weed Control in Non-Cropping Situations' correspondence courses in weed control.

Option III

- 'Pesticide Safety for Grounds Maintenance Personnel'

Option IV

- 'Safe Use of Pesticides in the Workplace'. Suitable only for very limited herbicide applications - where small portable operated sprayers are used to treat weeds.

Exemptions

Applicants who possess qualifications in turf management, horticulture, or greenkeeping (or similar) qualifications, which have a component encompassing the use of pesticides, may be granted an exemption from completing further courses.

Turf Management

To be authorised to apply pesticides to turf, one of the following courses or their equivalent must be successfully completed.

- Contract Applicators' Course
- The following minimum number of modules from Certificate II in Horticulture (Turf Management).
 - RUH3A Use Hazardous Substances Safely
 - RUH201A Treat Weeds
 - RUH202A Treat Pests and Diseases
 - RUH212A Apply Chemicals and Biological Agents
 - RUH216A Maintain Supplies of Chemicals and Biological Agents

Bushland and Minesite Weeds

For a Full licence to undertake work on bushland and/or for minesite rehabilitation, it is recommended that the following minimum competencies are completed.

- RTC2706A Apply Chemicals under Supervision
- RTC3401A Control Weeds
- RTC3704A Prepare and Apply Chemicals
- RTC3705A Transport, Handle and Store Chemicals

Challenger TAFE offers an external short course titled "Bushland weed control" which covers these units and includes completion of the ChemCert WA certificate.

Dieback Protection in Bushland

Challenger TAFE also offer an external short course titled "Dieback Protection in Bushland" for the application of phosphite to protect trees and vegetation. The course covers the units RTC2706A, RTC3704A, RTC3705A and RTC3404A Control plant pest, diseases and disorders. This course also includes completion of the ChemCert WA certificate.

Termite Treatment of Power Poles, Pigeon Control: Alpha-Chloralose Course

The operational areas of feral pigeon control using the narcotic alpha-chloralose and the treatment of power poles require specialist courses to be completed.

Contact details are listed at the end of this document.

NOTE: Unit 6 must be completed as a prerequisite.



Insectigas-D Operator Training

The use of Insectigas-D, active constituent dichlorvos, also requires the completion of a course in the safe use of the product. The suppliers of the product, BOC Gases, offer a half day course.

NOTE: Unit 6 must be completed as a prerequisite.

Feral Vertebrates

The use of the highly toxic chemicals such as Sodium Fluoracetate (1080) and Strychnine for feral vertebrate control is controlled by a Section 24 Notice in the Poisons Act and two Codes of Practice. Compliance with the Codes is a condition of licence and legally enforceable. A private provider offers a Pest Animal Management Course for users of 1080 and strychnine, as well as the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

NOTE: Applicants must complete units 5, 6 and 18 from the Asset Maintenance (Pest Management) training package and an approved 1080/strychnine course.

OR

Where an applicant is able to demonstrate significant experience and has had training in the use of 1080 they may be exempt from having to complete the 1080/strychnine course. However completion of Unit 6 or its equivalent is still a prerequisite.

For further information on training, qualifications, licenses and firm registrations, please contact Pesticide Safety, 1A Brockway Road, Mt Claremont WA 6010. Phone: (08) 9383 4244, Fax: (08) 9383 1819

For Further Information Contact:

Environmental Health Directorate
Department of Health
PO Box 8172
Perth Business Centre
Perth WA 6849.

Phone: (08) 9388 4999
Fax: (08) 9383 4955



COURSE/MODULE	TRAINING PROVIDER	PREREQUISITES	RELEVANT LICENCE
Unit 6	Challenger TAFE Peel Campus 9586 7400 Pest Education Services & Training (PES&T) 9443 3733 Central West College of TAFE Glen Brennan, 9964 2133 or 0418 939 640 TAFE SA (08) 8372 6814	Nil	Provisional
Cert III Asset Maintenance (Pest Management)	Challenger TAFE Peel Campus Ken Ritchie, 9586 7409 or 9525 2164 PES&T 9443 3733 Central West College of TAFE Glen Brennan, 9964 2133 or 0418 939 640 TAFE SA (08) 83726814	Unit 6	Full
Horticultural Pesticides	Carine (part-time) 9267 7353 Midlands Regional College of TAFE 9274 9333 Margaret River TAFE 9757 2310 Challenger TAFE 9229 9413	Nil	Provisional or Full
Control Weeds & Weed Control in Non-Cropping Situations	TAFE SA (08) 83726814	Prepare & apply chemicals	Full
Weed Control in Field crops and pastures	TAFE SA (08) 8372 6814	Prepare & apply chemicals, Control Weeds	Full
Risk Management in Pesticide use	ChemCert WWW.CHEMCERT.COM.AU 9341 5325	Nil	Temporary
Pigeon Control (alpha-chloralose) course	PES&T 9443 3733 Central West College 0418 939 640	Unit 6	Full
Insectigas-D Operator Training	BOC gases 1800 658 278	Unit 6	Full
Termite treatment of Power Poles	PES&T 9443 3733 Central West College 0418 939 640	Unit 6	Full
1080/Strychnine Training Course	Animal Pest Management Services 9725 3377	Nil	Full
Bushland Weed Control and Dieback Protection in Bushland	Challenger TAFE Murdoch Campus Michael O'Halloran 9229 8417, or 0408 462 374	Nil	Full
Contract Applicators Course	Challenger TAFE Murdoch Campus 9229 8417, or 0408 462 374 PES&T 9443 3733 Smarttrain (02) 6951 2504	Nil	Full
Cert II Horticulture (Turf Management)	Challenge TAFE Murdoch Campus 9229 8420	Nil	Full
Safe Use of Pesticides in The Workplace (Lawn & Garden)	Hortus Australia George Mathews 0402 062 440 Empower Education Greg McConkey 9255 4188 Mobile 0407 930 218	Nil	Full
1080 / Strychnine Training for Doggers	Department of Agriculture and Food WA contact Geoff Thomas, 9690 2000	Units 5,6,18	Full