

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## AGRICULTURE PESTICIDE PROGRAM



### Convenience Testing for Commercial/Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has contracted with PSI Services (PSI) to administer exams for agricultural pesticide applicator licensing. This is the same vendor that administers exams for structural pest control licensing. PSI has been providing credentialing and testing services to state and federal agencies, private sector businesses and professional associations for over 65 years.

PSI will provide both excellent quality exam opportunities and a convenient schedule for pesticide applicators to test in 22 locations across the state. The schedule will provide more testing opportunities than previously offered. By outsourcing testing to a third-party vendor, the Department's resources may be used in a more consistent and efficient manner.

#### STEPS TO BECOMING A COMMERCIAL/NONCOMMERCIAL/NONCOMMERCIAL POLITICAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR

- **Step 1:** Contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at [www-aes.tamu.edu](http://www-aes.tamu.edu) or (979) 845-1099, to obtain pesticide examination study manuals.
- **Step 2:** Complete an application for either a [Commercial Applicator](#) (PA-401) or a [Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator](#) (PA-400N) and submit the license fee to TDA. These forms are available at <http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov> or by calling TDA at 1-800-835-5832 or 512-463-7622.
  - Commercial Pesticide Applicator License Fee = \$180/year
  - Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator License Fee = \$120/year
  - Noncommercial Political Subdivision Pesticide Applicator License Fee = \$12/year
- **Step 3:** Submit the completed applicator license application form and license fee to TDA.
- **Step 4:** When the license application is processed, TDA will send the applicant a letter in the mail with their Account Number. This **Account Number** will be the number the applicator will use to register and schedule exam(s) with PSI.
- **Step 5:** Applicants can go to [PSIexams.com](http://PSIexams.com) or call 1-800-733-9267 to schedule an exam at one of 22 locations around the state.
  - A [Pesticide Licensing Examination Candidate Information Bulletin](#) is provided at the PSI website to assist the applicant with the exam scheduling process.
  - An applicant must pass the General Standards exam and at least one category exam to be issued a license.
  - The General Standards applicator exam is free for the first attempt.
  - The commercial/noncommercial applicant will pay \$24 category fee for the initial attempt of a category exam.
  - If the applicant fails the first attempt of the General Standards or a category exam, the additional attempts will require a payment of \$52.00 to PSI for all license types for each re-test.
  - There is a 24 hour waiting period to take a repeat exam.
- **Step 6:** Upon completion of the exam, the testing center will provide test results immediately. A passing grade is 70% or higher.
- **Step 7:** PSI will send exam scores to TDA daily. If all licensing criteria are met, TDA will issue the license.

**Important:** If an applicant has any questions about licensing or categories, please contact TDA. PSI staff cannot provide licensing advice or information.