On December 12, 2016, EPA issued revisions to the existing Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule (40 CFR 171). These revisions provide assurance that certified applicators and noncertified applicators under their direct supervision are competent to use **restricted use pesticides** (RUPs) in a manner that will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment.

Note that this document provides general guidance to EPA, certifying authorities, certified applicators, and the public. This document is not binding on EPA or any outside parties, and EPA may depart from the guidance where circumstances warrant and without prior notice. The full text of the revised regulation and more information on the final changes to the regulation are available at: www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revised-certification-standards-pesticide-applicators.

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Enhance Private	Private applicators must demonstrate	Private applicators must demonstrate	Private applicators must be certified as
Applicator	competency in pest control in the production of	competency in pest control in the production of	competent on 5 general topics:
Competency	agricultural commodities in regard to topics	agricultural commodities in regard to topics	recognizing pests, reading and
Standards	similar to those in the core competency	similar to those in the core competency	understanding labeling, applying
	standards for commercial applicators (i.e., label	standards for commercial applicators (i.e., label	pesticides in accordance with the
	and labeling comprehension; safety;	and labeling comprehension; safety;	labeling, recognizing environmental
	environment; pests; pesticides; equipment;	environment; pests; pesticides; equipment;	conditions and avoiding contamination,
	application techniques; laws and regulations;	application techniques; laws and regulations;	recognizing poisoning symptoms and
	responsibilities for supervisors of noncertified	responsibilities for supervisors of noncertified	procedures to follow in the case of a
	applicators; stewardship).	applicators; stewardship).	pesticide accident.
	Private applicator competency must include ability to read and understand pesticide labeling.	Private applicator competency must include ability to read and understand pesticide labeling.	
	Eliminate the proposed competency standard that required candidates to identify specific pests.		
	171.105(a)		

December 20, 2016 Page 1 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Strengthen	Private applicators must either attend a training	Private applicators must either attend a	Private applicator certification can be
Private	program covering the mandatory competency	training program covering the mandatory	done by written or oral exam, or other
Applicator	standards <u>or</u> pass a written exam.	competency standards <u>or</u> pass a written exam.	method approved as part of the State
Competency			certification plan.
Gauge			
Eliminate Non-	No "non-reader" option for persons who cannot	No "non-reader" option for persons who	States can offer an alternative, product-
Reader	read to obtain certification to use specific RUPs.	cannot read to obtain certification to use	specific certification process for persons
Certification for		specific RUPs.	who cannot read.
Private			
Applicators			
Pollinator	No specific requirements related to pollinator	Add "presence of pollinators" as topic under	No specific competency standards
Issues	protection added to regulation.	"Environment" heading in proposed general	related to pollinator protection.
issues	protection added to regulation.	private applicator competency standards and	related to politilator protection.
	Applicators in categories likely to affect	commercial core competency standards.	
	pollinators should receive information on	Service of the servic	
	protecting pollinators in competency standards	Requested comment on whether to add	
	under "avoiding harm to non-target organisms"	pollinator protection to proposed training	
	and under reading and understanding labeling	program for noncertified applicators.	
	requirements.		

December 20, 2016 Page 2 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Establish	Establish categories for private and commercial	Establish categories for private and commercial	No additional certification required to
Additional	applicators performing: aerial application, soil	applicators performing: aerial application, soil	use certain application methods that
Categories for	fumigation, and non-soil fumigation.	fumigation, and non-soil fumigation.	may present higher risks if not
Private and			conducted properly.
Commercial	No concurrent certification required.	For commercial applicators, require concurrent	
Applicator		certification in at least one pest control	
Certification	Certifying authorities are not required to adopt these categories if a category is not needed in a particular jurisdiction.	category to be eligible for certification in application method-specific category.	
	Allow certifying authorities to combine soil fumigation and non-soil fumigation into a single certification category.		
	171.101(m)-(o), 171.103(d)(13)-(15), 171.105(d)-(f)		

December 20, 2016 Page 3 of 17

December 20, 2016 Page 4 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Establish Predator Control Categories for Private and Commercial Applicator Certification	Add categories for private and commercial applicators: sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080) in livestock protection collars and sodium cyanide delivered through M-44 devices. Certifying authorities are not required to adopt these categories if a category is not needed in a particular jurisdiction. 171.101(k)-(l), 171.103(d)(11)-(12), 171.105(b)-(c)	Add categories for private and commercial applicators: sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080) in livestock protection collars and sodium cyanide delivered through M-44 devices.	No predator control categories established in rule. Registration decisions and labeling for sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080) used in livestock protection collars and sodium cyanide delivered through M-44 devices include specific competency standards and require applicators to be competent.
Identification of Candidates for Certification and Recertification	Require all candidates for initial certification (exam or training) and recertification by exam to present a government-issued photo identification OR other similarly reliable form of identification approved by the certifying authority. 171.103(a)(2)(iii), 171.105(h)(1), 171.105(h)(2)(i) Require certifying authorities to verify successful completion of each recertification course/event (e.g., training, workshop, continuing education), including the identity of candidates for recertification . No specific requirement to verify identity based on government-issued photo identification.	Require candidates to present identification for initial and recertification exams and training sessions.	No requirement to present identification at exam or training sessions.

December 20, 2016 Page 5 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Establish Exam Standards	All exams must be proctored. Only materials approved by the certifying authority, provided and collected by the proctor, may be used during exams (final rule does not use the term "closed-book exams"). Requires certifying authorities to adopt specific exam administration standards; allows certifying authorities to establish standards that meet or exceed federal standards.	Codify policy requiring all exams to be closed book and proctored. Impose specific requirements for exam administration and security on the proctor.	Competency for commercial applicators must be determined on the basis of written examination. EPA policy requires that all certification exams be closed book and proctored.
	171.103(a)(2), 171.303(a)(5)-(6)		
Enhance Competence of Noncertified Applicators of RUPs	 Qualify as a noncertified applicator of RUPs by any of the following: Completing training outlined in the rule at 171.201(d). Completing training as a handler under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) (40 CFR 170). Holding a valid applicator certification in an unrelated category or from another jurisdiction. Satisfying the requirements for noncertified applicators established by the certifying authority that meet or exceed federal standards. 	Noncertified applicators must receive annual training on safe pesticide application and protecting themselves and others from pesticide exposure (similar to WPS handler training). Exemption from training requirement for those with valid WPS handler training and those who have passed the commercial core exam.	Noncertified applicators must be competent to use RUPs. No specific training requirements. For specific applications, the certified applicator must provide verifiable instructions including detailed guidance for applying the pesticide.
	Training requirements must be satisfied annually.		
	171.201(c)		

December 20, 2016 Page 6 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Establish Qualifications for Trainers of Noncertified Applicators	Noncertified applicator training outlined in the rule at 171.201(d) can only be provided by one of the following: a currently certified applicator, a certifying authority-designated trainer of certified applicators or handlers, or a person who has completed an EPA-approved train-the-trainer course under the WPS.	Noncertified applicator training can only be provided by one of the following: a currently certified applicator, a certifying authority-designated trainer of certified applicators or handlers, or a person who has completed an EPA approved train-the-trainer course under the WPS.	The certified applicator provides required instructions. No qualifications required other than certification.
Establish Qualifications for Certified Applicators Supervising Noncertified Applicators	 Supervising applicators must: Be certified in the category in which they supervise applications. Ensure noncertified applicators under their supervision are qualified under 171.201(b)(2) and (c), including the minimum age requirement. Ensure the noncertified applicator has access to applicable labeling during use and provide specific instructions related to the application. Ensure noncertified applicator has PPE and wears it properly for the intended purpose. Ensure equipment is in proper operating condition. Ensure a means for immediate communication between the supervisor and supervisee is available. 171.201(b) 	 Supervising applicators must: Be certified in the category in which they supervise applications. Ensure noncertified applicators under their supervision have satisfied the training requirement. For specific applications, provide a copy of all applicable labeling to the noncertified applicator and provide specific instructions related to the application. Ensure a means for immediate communication between the supervisor and supervisee is available. 	Supervising applicators must demonstrate practical knowledge of supervisory requirements. For specific applications, supervising applicator must provide detailed guidance for applying the pesticide properly and provisions for contacting the certified applicator.

December 20, 2016 Page 7 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Expand	Require commercial applicators to verify the	Require commercial applicators to maintain	No commercial applicator recordkeeping
Commercial	existence of and have access to records	records of noncertified applicators' training	required related to providing verifiable
Applicator	documenting noncertified applicators'	that include: the trained noncertified	instructions to noncertified applicators.
Recordkeeping	qualification. Record content depends on	applicator's printed name and signature, the	
to Include	method of qualification.	date of the training, the name of the person	
Noncertified		who provided the training, and the supervising	
Applicator	Must have access to records for 2 years from	commercial applicator's name.	
Training	date of RUP use.		
	171.201(e)		
Establish a	Persons must be at least 18 years old to be	Persons must be at least 18 years old to be	No minimum age requirement.
Minimum Age	certified as a commercial or private applicator.	certified as a commercial or private applicator.	
for Certified			
Applicators			
	171.103(a)(1), 171.105(g)		
Establish a	Persons must be at least 18 years old to qualify	Persons must be at least 18 years old to qualify	No minimum age requirement.
Minimum Age	as a noncertified applicator using RUPs under	as a noncertified applicator using RUPs under	
for Noncertified	the direct supervision of a commercial or private	the direct supervision of a commercial or	
Applicators	applicator.	private applicator.	
	Exception: Persons using RUPs under the supervision of a private applicator who is an immediate family member must be at least 16 years old. The exception does not apply if the RUP is a fumigant, sodium cyanide, sodium fluoroacetate, or an RUP to be applied aerially.		
	171.201(b)(2)(iii)		
Establish a	Require all applicators to renew their	Require all applicators to renew their	States must ensure that applicators
National Certification Period	certification (recertify) <u>at least</u> every 5 years .	certification (recertify) at least every 3 years .	maintain a continuing level of competency and ability to apply pesticides safety and properly.
	171.107(a)		

December 20, 2016 Page 8 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Recertification	Recertification must include satisfactory	One continuing education unit (CEU) is 50	States must ensure that applicators
Requirements	completion of continuing education or exam. Establish performance standards for certifying	minutes of active training time.	maintain a continuing level of competency and ability to apply
	authorities to develop and administer	To renew their certification, commercial	pesticides safety and properly.
	recertification programs.	applicators must earn 6 CEUs covering core content and 6 CEUs per category of	
	For recertification by continuing education,	certification , or they must pass written exams	
	states must adopt criteria for:	for core and each category of certification.	
	 quantity of continuing education required to maintain certification content covered by the continuing education program and how the certifying authority ensures the required content is covered process the certifying authority uses to approve continuing education courses or events, including how any continuing education courses or events verify the applicator's successful completion of the course or event how the certifying authority ensures the ongoing quality of the continuing education program 	To renew their certification, private applicators must earn 6 CEUs covering the general private applicator certification requirements and 3 CEUs per category of certification, or they must pass written exams for general private applicator certification and each category of certification. Applicators must earn at least half of the required CEUs in the 18 months preceding the expiration of their certification.	
	For recertification by exam , states must establish:		
	 the process for reviewing, and updating as necessary, the written examination(s) to ensure that they evaluate whether a certified applicator continues to demonstrate competency 		
	No requirements for when training must occur during the 5-year period.		
	171.107(b), 171.303(b)(4), 171.305(b)(3)		

December 20, 2016 Page 9 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
State Plan	Certification plans must meet or exceed new	Certification plans must meet or exceed new	Certification plans must meet or exceed
Modification to	standards and requirements.	standards and requirements.	existing standards and requirements.
Implement			
Changes			
	171.303, 171.305		
Noncertified	Certifying authorities may adopt standards for	States, tribes, and territories may either adopt	
Applicators/Use	noncertified applicators that meet or exceed	the proposed standards for noncertified	
of RUPs under	the federal standards, <u>or</u> prohibit the use of	applicator training or prohibit the use of RUPs	
the Supervision	RUPs by noncertified applicators under the	by noncertified applicators working under the	
of a Certified	direct supervision of certified applicators.	direct supervision of certified applicators.	
Applicator			
	171.303(b)(5), 171.305(b)(4)		

December 20, 2016 Page 10 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Program	Certifying authorities must report:	Reporting must include:	Reporting must include:
Reporting and Accountability	 For private and commercial applicators - new, recertified, and total number of applicators holding certifications, by category and subcategory (if applicable). Any changes to the certification plan not previously evaluated by EPA. Any planned changes to the certification 	 For private and commercial applicators - new, recertified, and total number of applicators holding certifications, by category and subcategory (if applicable). Any changes to the certification plan not previously evaluated by EPA. Any planned changes to the certification 	 Total number of applicators, private and commercial, by category, currently certified; and number of applicators, private and commercial, by category, certified during the last reporting period. Any changes in commercial
	 A summary of enforcement activities related to the use of RUPs. 	 Number, description and narrative discussion of enforcement actions taken for incidents involving RUPs. 	 applicator subcategories. A summary of enforcement activities related to use of restricted use pesticides during the last reporting period. Any significant proposed changes in
			 required standards of competency. Proposed changes in plans and procedures for enforcement activities related to use of restricted use pesticides for the next reporting period.
	171.303(c), 171.305(c)		 Any other proposed changes from the State plan that would significantly affect the State certification program.
Civil and Criminal Penalty Authority	States must have authority to assess civil <u>and</u> criminal penalties for commercial and private applicators. Tribes and federal agencies must have other specified means of enforcing compliance.	States must have authority to assess civil <u>and</u> criminal penalties for commercial and private applicators.	States must have authority to assess civil and/or criminal penalties for commercial and private applicators.
	171.303(b)(7)(iii), 171.305(b)(5), 171.307		

December 20, 2016 Page 11 of 17

December 20, 2016 Page 12 of 17

RUP dealer recordkeeping must include: Name and address of each person to whom the RUP was distributed or sold. The applicator's certification number, issuing authority, certification expiration date, and categories of certification. The product name and EPA registration number of the RUP(s) distributed or sold in the transaction, and the State special local need registration number on the label of the RUP (s) distributed or sold in the transaction. The quantity of the pesticide(s) distributed or sold in the transaction. The date of the certified applicator. The certification is used by another state, Tribe or pederal agency, if applicable, and the identified the transaction.	Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
the RUP was distributed or sold. The applicator's certification expiration date, and categories of certification. The product name and EPA registration number of the RUP(s) distributed or sold in the transaction, and the State special local need registration number on the label of the RUP if applicable. The quantity of the pesticide(s) distributed or sold in the transaction. The date of the transaction. The certified applicator credentials must include: The certification plan. The quantity of the pesticide(s) distributed or sold in the transaction. The date of the transaction. The certified applicator credentials must include: The certification plan. The date of the septication of the transaction of the RUPs and the place of the transaction of the RUPs and the place of the certification. The product name and EPA registration number of the Bulbel of the RUPs and the place of the RUP	RUP Dealer	RUP dealer recordkeeping must include:	RUP dealer recordkeeping must include:	No federal requirement for RUP dealers
Certified Applicator Credentials Certifying authorities must describe the credentials or documents they will issue to each applicator verifying certification. Credentials Certifying authorities must describe the credentials or documents they will issue to each applicator verifying certification. The full name of the certified applicator. The certification, license, or credential number of the certification (private or commercial). The type of certification (private or commercial). The category(ies), including any application method-specific category(ies) and subcategories of certification, in which the applicator is certification. A statement that the certification is based on a certification issued by another State, Tribe or Federal agency, if applicable, and		 Name and address of each person to whom the RUP was distributed or sold. The applicator's certification number, issuing authority, certification expiration date, and categories of certification. The product name and EPA registration number of the RUP(s) distributed or sold in the transaction, and the State special local need registration number on the label of the RUP if applicable. The quantity of the pesticide(s) distributed or sold in the transaction. The date of the transaction. 	 Name and address of each person to whom the RUP was distributed or sold. The applicator's certification number, issuing authority, certification expiration date, and categories of certification. The product name and EPA registration number of the RUP(s) distributed or sold in the transaction, and the State special local need registration number on the label of the RUP if applicable. The quantity of the pesticide(s) distributed or sold in the transaction. The date of the transaction. Records are to be maintained for at least 2	to maintain records, except for any State or area of Indian country where EPA
Applicator Credentials credentials or documents they will issue to each applicator verifying certification. The full name of the certified applicator. The type of certification (private or commercial). The category(ies), including any application method-specific category(ies) and subcategories of certification, in which the applicator is certified, as applicable. The expiration date of the certification. A statement that the certification is based on a certification issued by another State, Tribe or Federal agency, if applicable, and				
Credentials each applicator verifying certification. The certification, license, or credential number of the certification (private or commercial). The category(ies), including any application method-specific category(ies) and subcategories of certification, in which the applicator is certification. The expiration date of the certification. A statement that the certification is based on a certification issued by another State, Tribe or Federal agency, if applicable, and		, •		·
171.303(a)(8), 171.305(a)(9) the identity of that State, Tribe or Federal agency.	• •	each applicator verifying certification.	 The certification, license, or credential number of the certified applicator. The type of certification (private or commercial). The category(ies), including any application method-specific category(ies) and subcategories of certification, in which the applicator is certified, as applicable. The expiration date of the certification. A statement that the certification is based on a certification issued by another State, Tribe or Federal agency, if applicable, and the identity of that State, Tribe or Federal 	documents used to verify an applicator's

December 20, 2016 Page 13 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Reciprocal	Certification plans must specify whether, and if	Certification plans must specify whether, and if	State plans must describe any
Applicator	so under what circumstances, the certifying	so under what circumstances, the state would	arrangements with other states or
Certification	authority would issue a certification, based in	issue reciprocal certifications.	jurisdictions relating to reciprocity.
	whole or in part, on a certification issued by		
	another certifying authority.	Reciprocal certifications subject to specific	No requirements for states to provide
		conditions.	specific information on their
	Reciprocal certifications subject to specific		requirements and procedures for issuing
	conditions.		reciprocal certification.
	No requirement for reciprocal certification to		
	terminate automatically upon termination of		
	the original certification.		
	171.303(a)(9), 171.305(a)(10)		

December 20, 2016 Page 14 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
State Plan Maintenance, Modification, and Withdrawal	Codify policy that substantial modifications include: • Addition or deletion of a mechanism for	 Proposed Revision Codify policy that substantial modifications include: Deletion of a mechanism for certification and/or recertification. Establishment of a new private applicator subcategory, commercial applicator category, or commercial applicator subcategory. Any other changes that the Agency has notified the State, Tribal or Federal agency that the Agency considers to be substantial modifications. 	Existing Rule States may not make substantial modifications to their certification plan without EPA approval. The regulation does not outline what constitutes a substantial modification. EPA policy states that substantial modifications include: Deletion of a mechanism for certification and/or recertification. Establishment of a new private applicator subcategory, commercial applicator category, or commercial applicator subcategory. Any other changes that the Agency has notified the State, Tribal or Federal agency that the Agency considers to be substantial modifications.
	171.309		

December 20, 2016 Page 15 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Establish Provisions for Review and Approval of Federal Agency Plans	Delete Government Agency Plan option from the regulation. Codify existing policy to allow Federal agencies to develop their own plans for certifying Federal agency employee applicators. Federal agency certification plans must meet or exceed the standards in the regulation.	Delete Government Agency Plan option from the regulation. Codify existing policy to allow Federal agencies to develop their own plans for certifying Federal agency employee applicators. Federal agency certification plans must meet or exceed the standards in the proposed regulation.	Option to develop a single, federal government-wide Government Agency Plan to certify federal employees applying RUPs. Government Agency Plan never developed. Current EPA policy allows Federal agencies to develop their own plans for certifying Federal agency employee applicators, as long as the plan meets or exceeds the applicable standards in the regulation for State plans, and complies with requirements of the policy.
Clarify Options	171.305 Three options for applicator certification	Three options for applicator certification	Three options for applicator certification
for Establishing	programs in Indian Country:	programs in Indian Country:	programs in Indian Country:
a Certification Program in Indian Country	 Tribes may enter into an agreement with EPA (region(s) to recognize certifications issued under other EPA-approved certification plans (State, Tribal, or Federal) Tribes may develop and implement a Tribal certification plan (requires Tribes to develop and submit a Tribal certification plan that meets or exceeds the standards) EPA may administer a Federal certification plan for applicators in Indian country that meets or exceeds the standards. EPA may include multiple tribes and geographic areas under a single plan. 	 Tribes may enter into an agreement with EPA to recognize certifications issued under other EPA-approved certification plans (State, Tribal, or Federal) Tribes may develop and implement a Tribal certification plan (requires Tribes to develop and submit a Tribal certification plan that meets or exceeds the proposed standards) EPA may administer a Federal certification plan for applicators in Indian country that meets or exceeds the proposed standards. EPA may include multiple tribes and geographic areas under a single plan. 	 Tribes may utilize State certification to certify applicators (requires concurrence by the State(s) and an appropriate State-Tribal agreement) Tribes may develop and implement a Tribal certification plan (requires Tribes to develop and submit an appropriate Tribal certification plan to EPA for approval) EPA may administer a Federal certification plan for applicators in Indian country

December 20, 2016 Page 16 of 17

Item	Final Requirement	Proposed Revision	Existing Rule
Revise Provisions for EPA- Administered Plans	EPA-administered federal certification plans must meet the standards for State certification plans, including RUP applicator certification, recertification, and noncertified applicator qualifications, as well as plan reporting and maintenance requirements. 171.311	EPA-administered federal certification plans must meet the proposed standards for State certification plans, including RUP applicator certification, recertification, and noncertified applicator qualifications, as well as plan reporting and maintenance requirements.	The current rule establishes requirements for EPA-administered certification plans in States or areas of Indian country without EPA-approved certification plans in place, including specific standards for certification and recertification of pesticide applicators.
Implementation Schedule	Certifying authorities must submit revised certification plans within 3 years of effective date of final rule. If revised plan is timely submitted to EPA, existing plan will remain in effect until revised plan is approved by EPA. Timeframe for implementation/compliance with revised certification plan will be decided on a case-by-case basis as part of EPA's review and approval of each revised certification plan.	Certifying authorities must submit revised certification plans within 2 years of effective date of final rule. Existing certification plans may remain in effect up to 4 years from effective date of the rule. After 4 years from effective date of the rule or EPA approves revised certification plan, all certification must be done in accordance with revised certification plan.	Not applicable.

December 20, 2016 Page 17 of 17