

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Bureau of Plant Industry
P.O. Box 5207, Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone: (662) 325-3390 Fax: (662) 325-0397
Email: professionalservices@mdac.ms.gov

OPERATOR LICENSE EXAM APPLICATION PEST AND WEED CONTROL

No person shall advertise in any manner to render professional services or solicit business, or receive a fee, for performing these services until obtaining the appropriate license.

Please complete this application form accurately and legibly, with all required documents attached. Incomplete application will be denied.

Study Reference Lists are located on the website at <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/bpi/pesticide-program/weed-and-pest-control-license-and-permit/>.

There are no fees for taking examinations (except for computer-based exams) or for the issuance of an Operator License.

Paper-based Examination

Note: This application must be reviewed, processed, and approved at least ten (10) days prior to the examination. Once approved, applicant will be notified in writing of the location and date of the examination.

Operator License examinations are given at Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi on the second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Alternatively, applicants may request to take the examinations at the Bureau of Plant Industry office with 24 hours' advance notice once an application has been approved.

Application may be submitted by one of the methods below:

- Via email at professionalservices@mdac.ms.gov
- Via fax at (662) 325-0397
- Via mail at 705 Stone Blvd./P.O. Box 5207, Mississippi State, MS 39762
- Via in-person visit/drop-off

Applicant who fails a pest and/or weed control category licensing exam can retake at next quarterly examination.

Upon successful completion of all required exams an Operator License will be issued designating the category(s) in which the operator may conduct services.

Computer-based Examination

License examinations can be taken at any time at one of these testing centers located in Mississippi:

- Meridian – Meridian Community College
- Oxford – University of Mississippi
- Jackson – Hinds Community College
- Starkville – Mississippi State University

All correspondence for computer-based exams must be emailed to bpitesting@mdac.ms.gov.

Examination fee is \$55.00 per exam, payable to Metro Institute. Do not send payment to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

To apply, visit Metro Institute website at www.metrosignup.com/Mississippi. Must create an account, select License Exam Application and complete/upload all supporting documentation before submitting for review. A MDAC Testing ID number will be assigned once an application is approved.

Applicant who fails a pest and/or weed control category licensing exam can retake during next application cycle.

Upon successful completion of all required exams an Operator License will be issued designating the category(s) in which the operator may conduct services.

EXAM QUALIFICATIONS

Please check applicable box(es):

Qualifying based on education:

- ALL categories:** graduate from an accredited college or university with at least 15 semester hours or the equivalent in the category for which applicant is requesting a license, OR 2 years of college or university training with special training in the category for which applicant is requesting a license. You **MUST** attach a copy of all official transcripts.

Qualifying courses for *Pest (Defined as Insect and Rodent Control) Exam* include:

- 3 semester hours of entomology and 7 hours in advanced entomology and/or advanced zoology.
- 5 semester hours in at least two additional courses including animal ecology (if taught as a zoology or biology course), microbiology, organic chemistry, and other advanced level related courses.

Qualifying courses for *Pest (Defined as Plant Disease Control) Exam* include:

- 3 semester hours of basic plant pathology and 7 hours in advanced plant pathology and/or botany.
- 5 semester hours in at least two additional courses including plant ecology (if taught as a botany or biology course), elementary bacteriology and/or microbiology, organic chemistry, and other advanced level related courses.

Qualifying courses for *Weed Control Exam* include:

- 3 semester hours of weed science or turf management and 7 hours in advanced weed science, turf management, botany, or forestry management courses.
- 5 semester hours in at least two additional courses including general soils, microbiology, organic chemistry, and other advanced level related courses.

Qualifying based on education and work experience:

- Applicants for Wood Destroying Insect Control, General Pest and Rodent Control, and Fumigation Pest Control** (*All other applicants go to next qualification*): must be at least high school graduate or equivalent and have had, in addition, at least 4 years' experience with a licensed operator within the past 6 years. In special cases where an applicant can submit proof of education, experience, and training equal to or exceeding these requirements, applicant shall be allowed to take the required examinations. You **MUST** attach a copy of High School Diploma or GED and provide written documentation and verifiable proof of work experience.

- Applicants for all other categories:** must be at least a high school graduate or equivalent, and have had, in addition, at least 1 years' experience with a licensed operator within the past 2 years. In special cases where an applicant can submit proof of education, experience and training equal to or exceeding these requirements applicant shall be allowed to take the required examinations. You **MUST** attach a copy of High School Diploma or GED and provide written documentation and verifiable proof of work experience.

Qualifying based on work experience only:

- Applicants without High School Diploma or its equivalency:** may qualify to take license examinations in Agricultural weed control, Aquatic weed control, Right-of-way weed control, and Horticultural weed control provided that applicant has had at least 2 years' experience within the past 3 years with a licensed operator in the categories where a license is desired. You **MUST** provide written documentation and verifiable proof of work experience

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Applicants who wish to qualify based on work experience must complete this form. Relevant employment history (employment with licensees) only. Employment information provided must be verifiable through State regulatory agency. List most recent employment first. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____

Dates of Employment (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ TO _____

Job Title: _____

ID Card Number of Applicant (*Specify issuing State*): _____

Categories listed on ID card of applicant: _____

Supervisor (Operator License holder): _____

ID Card Number of Supervisor: _____

If Applicant desires, supervisory license holder may sign below (Signature is not mandatory)

By signing this application, I, _____, affirm the documented work experience for this applicant is correct and the applicant has worked for the above company under my direct supervision for the following category(ies): _____ (as listed on this of application).

My ID number is _____ Signature of Operator License Holder _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____

Dates of Employment (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ TO _____

Job Title: _____

ID Card Number of Applicant (*Specify issuing State*): _____

Categories listed on ID card of applicant: _____

Supervisor (Operator License holder): _____

ID Card Number of Supervisor: _____

If Applicant desires, supervisory license holder may sign below (Signature is not mandatory)

By signing this application, I, _____, affirm the documented work experience for this applicant is correct and the applicant has worked for the above company under my direct supervision for the following category(ies): _____ (as listed on this of application).

My ID number is _____ Signature of Operator License Holder _____

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

- For Applicant who wishes to qualify based on college coursework or training that is related to the category(s) to be licensed:

Copy of all official College Transcripts Attached

- For Applicant who wishes to qualify based on education and work experience:

Copy of High School Diploma or GED Attached

Employment History Attached

- For Applicant who wishes to qualify based on work experience only:

Employment History Attached

- For Applicant who is commercially certified

I am commercially certified in the state of _____

Commercial Certificate Number _____

Copy of Commercial Certificate (front and back) Attached

HOW TO BECOME COMMERCIALY CERTIFIED

The Mississippi State University Extension Service publishes self-study materials for those individuals who are seeking to become commercially certified. Applicants who wish to prepare for taking the commercial certification exam, may purchase the general standards core manual, entitled National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual, 2nd ed. (2014). The manual, its price, and order form may be found at <https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals>. The manual is **NOT** available from the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Operator License applicants, who are not commercially certified, must pass the General Standards core examination. Mississippi license exams meet the standards of competency for specific commercial certification category exams as outlined in the Environmental Protection Agency Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Section 171.103. Therefore, it is not necessary for applicants to take commercial certification category exams if operator license exam is passed.

Applicants should study the General Standards core manual and plan to take the exam at either the Bureau of Plant Industry office on any weekday, except holidays, if the applicant notifies the Bureau 24 hours in advance at 662-325-3390 and receives approval, or at any of the 6 locations within the state where recertification sessions are conducted during the year. A list of these locations can be found at <https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/commercial-applicator-recertification-schedules>. The General Standards core exam may also be taken by license applicants at the operator license and permit holder examination sessions on the second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October once approval is granted.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, which is the regulatory agency in the State of Mississippi, conducts and administers all certification, operator license, and permit exams. For additional information, please contact Gene Merkl by phone at 662-325-5829 or by email at gm53@msstate.edu.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LICENSES

No person shall advertise in any manner to render professional services or solicit business or receive a fee for performing the services listed below without first obtaining a license. Persons must secure a license from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce in accordance with Sections 69-19-1 through 69-19-11, Mississippi Code 1972. Failure to secure a license could result in a civil penalty up to \$5,000.

Exam Applications can be found at <https://agnet.mdac.ms.gov/agManage/uploads/1568.pdf> or navigate through Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce website, Bureau of Plant Industry, Pesticide Program, Weed and Pest Control License and Permit.

LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Wood destroying insect control	Control of termites, beetles, or other wood destroying insects in buildings and other structures, including homes, warehouses, stores, docks and/or other structures. Control of Formosan termites attacking trees is included in this category.
Control of insect pest of utility poles	Control of insect pests of utility poles.
Orchard pest control	Control of insect pests, plant diseases or pest animals of various fruit and nut trees, brambles, vineyards, and all plants normally classed as nut trees or fruit orchards.
General pest and rodent control	Control of insect pests or pest animals which may invade homes, restaurants, stores, and other buildings, attacking their contents or furnishings or being a general nuisance, but do not normally attack the building itself, as for example: roaches, silverfish, ants, flies, mosquitoes, carpet beetles, clothes moths, fleas, ticks, stored food insects, rats, mice, centipedes, etc. Includes services in the mosquito and biting fly category. Individuals issued the general pest and rodent control license may request MBFL as a separate license without taking the exam, PROVIDED, that the licensee submits an application that the license is needed to operate a company solely for performing mosquito and biting fly control services.
Mosquito and biting fly control	Control of mosquitoes and biting flies including mosquito misting systems and backpack applications.
Horticultural pest control	Control of insect pests, plant diseases or pest animals of ornamental plants, shade trees (which may include nut or fruit trees if used as ornamental plants or shade trees) and lawns in residential, commercial, public, industrial, and manufacturing areas.
Domestic animal pest control	Control of insect pests of domestic animals.
Fumigation pest control	Control of pests by fumigation. A person holding a license or permit shall be present at the time fumigant is released.
Agricultural pest control	Control of insect pests, plant diseases, or animal pests of agricultural crops during production. This category includes anyone soliciting and/or receiving a fee for these services who utilize ground application equipment.
Agricultural weed control	Control of weeds in field crops, vegetable crops, pastures, and rangeland. This category includes anyone soliciting and/or receiving a fee for these services who utilize ground application equipment.
Aquatic weed control	Control of weeds in and around edges of lakes, ponds, and streams.
Right-of-way weed control	Control of weeds of rights-of-way, forest lands and drainage ditches.
Horticultural weed control	Control of weeds in ornamental plants and turf in residential, commercial, public, industrial, and manufacturing areas.
Listed below are examples of what is NOT a Professional Services License	
Private Applicator Certification Card	City or County Privilege License / Permits
Commercial Applicator Certification Card	MS Tax Commission License
MSU Master Gardener Certification	MS Board of Contractors License
MS Landscape Architecture License	MS Nursery and Landscape Association Membership
International Society of Arboriculture Certification	MS Secretary of State Business Registration
Nursery Certification	Nursery Dealer Certification

For more information contact Bureau of Plant Industry at: 662-325-3390

Revised September 16, 2025