

Category 14 - What Does it Mean?

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Overview

Category 14, the *Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule*, originated in 2009 as a law passed by the Indiana General Assembly. The rule became effective on July 28, 2010, with full compliance to be required by January 1, 2012.

The rule covers the application, transport, and distribution of fertilizer material for agricultural purposes. The term “fertilizer material” is defined as commercial fertilizer products as well as manure from confined feeding operations (CFOs). CFOs are livestock facilities that house 300 cattle, 600 sheep or swine, or 30,000 chickens, turkeys, or other poultry. CAFOs, or concentrated animal feeding operations, are also included in the rule because the threshold numbers of animals housed are larger than CFOs.

Category 14 requires certification for individuals who meet the criteria of the following four categories:

Private Fertilizer Applicator

Anyone who applies manure from a CFO to their own property (if amount is 10 cubic yards or 4,000 gallons per year or less, no certification is required). Certification is not required for anyone purchasing and applying commercial fertilizer products (granular, liquid, etc.) to their own property. A private fertilizer applicator may train and supervise up to ten employees working for the farm operation.

Commercial Fertilizer Applicator

Anyone who applies fertilizer material (commercial fertilizer or manure) for-hire. A certified commercial applicator must be employed by a licensed fertilizer business (see below) and may train and supervise up to ten employees working for the business or farm.

Fertilizer Business

Any business applying fertilizer material for-hire. A fertilizer business must employ at least one Category 14 certified commercial applicator.

Fertilizer Distributor

Any business distributing or brokering fertilizer material only. No application, handling, or transporting is permitted. Not needed if already certified as a fertilizer business.

Category 14 applies if..

- You apply commercial fertilizer for-hire
- You apply manure from a CFO to your own fields
- You apply manure for-hire from a CFO or non-CFO
- You are a seller, distributor, or transporter of commercial fertilizer or manure from a CFO

Category 14 does not apply if..

- You purchase and apply commercial fertilizer to your own fields
- You apply less than 10 cubic yards or 4,000 gallons of manure from a CFO per year
- You apply non-CFO manure to your own fields

Category 14 applies to me, now what??

- **Private and commercial applicators must take and pass the Category 14 exam (see Category 14 Exam Options below)**
- **Private Fertilizer Applicators**
 - Submit application and \$20 license fee to OISC (no additional fee for current private pesticide applicators).
 - Attend 3 recertification (PARP) programs in five years (or retake exam every five years).
- **Commercial (for-hire) Fertilizer Applicators**
 - Submit application and \$45 license fee to OISC (no additional fee for current commercial pesticide applicators) and be employed by a certified fertilizer business.
 - Attend approved Cat. 14 training programs and accumulate 3 CCHs in five years (or retake exam every five years).
- **Fertilizer Businesses**
 - Submit Fertilizer Business License form and \$45 license fee to OISC (no exam required, no additional fee for current commercial pesticide applicator permit holders).
 - Employ at least one Category 14 certified applicator.
- **Fertilizer Distributors**
 - Submit Fertilizer Distributor License form and \$45 license fee to OISC (no exam required, valid for distribution only - no application, handling, or transportation permitted under distributor license).

Category 14 Exam Options

- **Exam-only on-campus** — Held monthly at Purdue University. Pre-registration is required, but there is no charge. No study materials are provided. For more information, see www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/study_purdue.html or contact the Extension Office.
- **Remote Testing Sites** — Exam may be taken anytime at H&R Block Remote Testing Sites. A fee is required with this option. For more information, see www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/study_remote.html or contact the Extension Office.
- **Training and Exam Workshops** — One day training sessions with exam to be taken at the end. The study manual is included with this option. Pre-registration is required and the cost will be approximately \$90. Planned to begin in August/September 2011. Additional information TBA.

Category 14 Study Manual

It is recommended to order the Category 14 study manual prior to taking the exam. The study manual is currently in the final stages of review and will go to print very soon.

The study manual will be available to order from the Purdue Extension Education Store (1-888-EXT-INFO or www.the-education-store.com) for \$32.

A draft copy is currently available for free download at www.ppp.purdue.edu.

Resources:

Office of Indiana State Chemist
<http://www.isco.purdue.edu>

Purdue Pesticide Programs
<http://www.ppp.purdue.edu/>

For questions or additional information, call Purdue Extension - Carroll County at (765) 564-3169 or email ahbrown@purdue.edu. Additional Information also available at www.extension.purdue.edu/carroll.

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