



Private Applicators and Continuing Education Credits (CECs) Some Frequently Asked Questions

One major difference between the Private Applicator (PA) pesticide license awarded by EPA and the PA license awarded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is the ability to obtain continuing education credits (CECs) in lieu of relicensing.

CECs are credits obtained by attending pre-approved 'professional update' classes to maintain a license.

Q: My EPA license is still valid, will CEC's count toward renewal of my license through the CDA?

A: No. CEC's only apply to those who have the Colorado private pesticide applicator license. The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is honoring all EPA licenses. Approximately 6 months before the expiration of an EPA license, the applicator will receive information by mail regarding how to test and obtain the Colorado private pesticide applicator license.

Q: I have a Private Applicator license awarded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Do I have to obtain CEC's in order to keep my license current?

A: No. Once a person obtains a PA license through CDA, the license is good for 3 years. When it comes time to renew that license, the applicator has two options: 1) Retest; or 2) Obtain the required CECs during that 3 year time frame.

Q: In order to renew my license, how many credits do I need and in what subjects?

A: In order to renew a license without examination, each private applicator must obtain the following credits prior to the expiration of his or her license:

- ,/ 2 credits in the subject area of applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations (1 hour);
- ,/ 1 credit in the subject area of pesticides and their families (1/2 hour); ,/ 1 credit in the subject area of applicator safety (1/2 hour);
- ,/ 1 credit in the subject area of public safety (1/2 hour);
- ,/ 1 credit in the subject area of environmental protection (1/2 hour); and ,/ 1 credit in the subject area of use of pesticides (1/2 hour).

These credits must be pre-approved by CDA.

Q: How do I know, where to find pre-approved courses offering these credits?

A: A list of pre-approved workshops offering credit, including the specific credits offered at each workshop is located on the CDA website at www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi click on 'pesticide programs' and then click on 'CEC workshops' . Many of these approved workshops are offered online as well as in diverse areas of the State. When you attend one of these workshops, the workshop organizers will have the appropriate forms and information necessary to make sure you are awarded the correct credits.

Q: What if I know of a workshop that I would like to attend, but do not see it listed on COA's website. How can I make sure CDA will give me credit for attending?

A: In order for a private applicator attending a course to receive relicensing or continuing education credit:

- ./ The course must be approved in advance by CDA;
- ./ Requests for approval must be in writing (forms are available on our website);
- ./ Request for approval must be submitted by the workshop organizers;
- ./ Request for approval must be submitted no less than 15 days prior to the course; and
- ./ Requests for approval need to include the proposed agenda, the identity of all speakers at pertinent course(s) and a synopsis of the topics to be addressed in each course for which credit is being requested.

This means that you will need to contact the workshop organizers and ask them to apply for CEC credits with CDA. Most workshop organizers are very willing to do this, as they often go through this same process with multiple State's Department of Agriculture.

Q: Is there a benefit to obtaining CEC's rather than retesting?

A: Each person's answer to that question may be different. Some may not value education as much as others. There are definite benefits to attending workshops and courses that provide professional development or updated information. Most would agree that remaining current in ones field of expertise is wise, not only for improved business practices and safety, but also for improved public relations and perceptions. Some may even be attending many of these workshops anyway, why not get CEC's at the same time, to renew your license without examination? If finances are tight, then arguably, it is more than likely cheaper to retest (\$20.00 + \$75.00 relicensing fee) compared to the cost of attending a workshop + \$75.00 relicensing fee. It all boils down to how much education is valued compared to how much one enjoys taking tests.

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