

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 is free-of-charge except at H&R Block Testing Sites
- 1) **Exam-only On-campus**—Monthly at Purdue University; Pre-registration required; For more info, see www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/study_purdue.html or contact the Extension Office
 - 2) **Remote Testing Site**—Exam may be taken anytime at H&R Block Remote Testing Sites; For more info, see www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/study_remote.html or contact the Extension Office
 - 3) **Regional Training and Exam Workshops**—Regional training sessions with exam to be taken at the end; For more info see www.ppp.purdue.edu/Cat14Workshops.pdf or contact the Extension Office
 - 4) **Regional Exam-only Sites**—Regional exam sites for private applicators only offered each year; For more info see <http://www.ppp.purdue.edu/PARP/examschedule.html>
 - 5)

Category 14 Study Manual

It is recommended to view the Category 14 study manual prior to taking the exam. The study manual is currently available for free download at www.ppp.purdue.edu.

Upon completion of the exam sessions in the fall of 2011, the study manual will no longer be available for free download and will only be available to order from the Purdue Extension Education Store (1-888-EXT-INFO or www.the-education-store.com) for \$32.

Resources:

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

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

For questions or additional information, contact your local Purdue Extension Office.