

# Commercial/Non-Commercial Pest Control Section

## Staff

Program Manager: Seth Dunlap  
Inspector Supervisor: James Clark  
Office staff: Kria Cochran  
Maggie Woodyard  
Julie Wilson  
Field Inspectors: Johnny Bell – North East Region  
Josh Dement – North Central Region  
Lyndall Hamilton – North West Region  
Greg Hearnberger – Southern Region  
Andrew Simpson – Central Region

## Licensing requirement and related information

The Commercial/Non-Commercial Pest Control Section is responsible for administering the “Arkansas Pest Control Law” (Act 488 of 1975, as amended) and the Regulations promulgated there under. The Arkansas Pest Control Law and Regulations require any person who, for compensation, engages in pest control service work as defined in the law to have a valid license or certificate issued by the Plant Board for that purpose. The definition of a pest control service is as follows:

*"Pest control service" means any person who, for compensation, gives advice or engages in work to prevent, control, or repel arthropods, mammals, birds, reptiles, or wood-damaging or wood-destroying organisms that may invade or infest homes, other buildings, or similar structures and shall include arthropods, mammals, birds, reptiles, weeds, and plant diseases that may invade, infest, or infect shade trees, shrubs, lawns, turf, and pecan groves. This term shall also include any person who issues letters of clearance, or who shall solicit such work in any manner, but the term shall not be construed to include agricultural crops from planting to harvest other than those mentioned above;*

The Pest Control Law and Regulations further requires that any person who uses a **Restricted-Use Pesticide (RUP)** be licensed or work under the supervision of someone licensed or certified by the Plant Board for such work. **RUP** pesticides are clearly identified on the products label.

The Pest Control Law does not require property owners who perform pest control work on their own property to have a license or certificate unless they wish to use RUP's. The Pest Control Law does not require employees of businesses who perform pest control work on the property of their employer to have a license or certificate unless they wish to use RUP's.

Pest control licenses and certificates are issued on an annual basis. The licenses and certificates are valid for one state fiscal year (July – June) and must be renewed prior to July 1 each year. We offer 10 different classifications of pest control license or certificates. The type of pest control service a person or business wishes to provide will dictate the classification or classifications of license or certificate needed.

Commercial licenses are required for pest control providers operating in the capacity of a pest service business. A Commercial License Holders license is required for a business to operate as a pest control service provider. To be eligible for a License Holders license the business must employ individuals licensed as commercial applicators. The licensed applicators oversee the pest control services provided by the business and supervise other employees performing pest control services.

Commercial License Holders business license classifications 1 (termites) and 2 (household pests and rodents) require bond and insurance coverage before being eligible to receive the license. Commercial License Holders business license classification 3 (fumigation) requires insurance before being eligible to receive the license. Non-licensed employees of pest control businesses (technicians) performing pest control services must be registered, by the business, as agents. The employees must be on-the-job trained by the businesses licensed applicators and pass a Plant Board administered exam to be eligible for agent registration. The agent exam fee is \$30 and this fee includes initial registration if the agent passes the exam. The License Holder (business) license fee is based on the number of registered agents employed by the business and can range from \$100 annually to \$500 annually.

To become eligible for a commercial applicators license or a non-commercial applicators certificate an individual must pass an exam related to the specific desired classification plus a Basic Core exam. Exams are offered bi-monthly. Classifications 1, 2, & 3 are offered on the second Monday of all odd months. Classifications 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 are offered on the second Monday of all even months. Exam fees are \$100 per classification (Basic – no charge). Persons wishing to take a pest control exam must pre-register by submitting an exam application (Form 901 and 901A – 901B is also required for classifications 1 & 2). The application forms and related exam fees must be submitted 5 working days prior to the examination date. 901 forms and study material can be obtained on our website or by requesting it directly from the office. Commercial applicator license classifications 1 (termites and structural pest) and 2 (household pests and rodents) require prior experience before being eligible to take the exam.

Non-commercial applicator certificates are issued to individuals performing pest services for an employer or Federal, State, and local government. Persons issued a certificate are restricted to performing pest service only for the employer.

Commercial applicator license annual fees are \$150 for one classification, \$250 for two classifications, and a \$300 maximum for 3 or more classifications. Non-commercial applicator certificate fees are \$70.

A summary of the entities we license or certify is as follows:

- **License Holder** is a commercial pest control business. Must either be or employ licensed applicators to administer the pest control services and supervise technicians.
- **Licensed Operator/Applicator** is an individual that has taken and passed Plant Board administered exams which qualifies the individual to perform pest control services and oversee/supervise technicians performing pest control services for a License Holder. Licensed applicators must either be a License Holder or be employed by a License Holder and work under the bond and insurance coverage of the License Holder (when required).

- **Registered Agent/Technician** is an individual employed by a License Holder for the purpose of performing pest control service work. Agents/technicians must be on-the-job trained by the License Holder and pass a Plant Board administered exam which qualifies the individual for agent registration. Agents/technicians work under the supervision of the businesses Licensed Applicators.
- **Non-Commercial Applicator** is an individual that has taken and passed Plant Board administered exams which qualifies the individual to perform pest control work. These applicators are issued a certificate (not a license) and are restricted from performing commercial (for compensation) pest control services. Non-commercial Applicators can only perform pest control work for their employer on the employers property. These individuals typically work for government entities, food related facilities, property management firms, golf courses, etc.

Currently, we issue applicator licenses or certificates for the following classifications of pest control work:

*Commercial Applicator License (Licensed Operator):*

*A. Structural Pest Control*

- 1. Termite and Other (Wood Destroying) Structural Pest Control*
- 2. Household Pest and Rodent Control*
- 3. General Fumigation*

*B. Ornamental Pest Control*

- 4. Tree and Turf Pest Control*
- 5. Weed Control*
- 6. Golf Course Pest Control*

*Non-Commercial Applicator Certificate (see restrictions in Section VIII of Arkansas Pest Control Law and Regulations):*

*A. Structural Pest Control*

- 7. Non-Commercial Pest Control*
- 8. Non-Commercial Fumigation*

*B. Ornamental Pest Control*

- 9. Non-Commercial Tree & Turf Pest Control*
- 10. Non-Commercial Golf Course Pest Control*

**Regulatory Oversight & Inspections**

The Pest Control Section performs various inspections related to pest control service providers. Inspections can vary from termite work performed on structures - applications performed on lawns and golf courses - fumigations - vehicles used for making applications - facilities where pest control operations are located – and more. Investigations are also conducted if possible violations of Pest Control Law and Regulations are suspected or reported.

The Pest Control Section has a strong commitment toward consumer protection. For most Arkansas citizens their homes are the largest financial investments of their lives. Due to the destructive nature of termites and the complexities involved with termite treatments the most common types of inspections we perform are related to termite treatments. If a property owner is concerned about their termite treatment they can request an inspection (at no cost) by contacting the section manager or inspector supervisor.

Pesticide use is primarily governed by the products label instructions. It is a violation of Federal and State law to handle, store, use, or dispose of a pesticide product in any way that is inconsistent with its label instructions. Pest Control Section inspectors routinely inspect applicators, pest control service vehicles, and pest control facilities to ensure compliance. Any citizen that suspects a possible misuse of a pesticide can report the incident by calling the section manager or inspector supervisor.

The Pesticide Division of the Plant Board also licenses Commercial and Non-Commercial applicators performing work governed by the Arkansas Pesticide Use and Application Act and Regulations. Agricultural, forestry, aquatic, and public health related pesticide work is licensed by the Pesticide Division. Individuals who wish to make pesticide applications should reference both laws to determine which, if either is applicable.

### **Who to contact?**

Call (501) 225-1598 and ask for:

Questions concerning examinations – Maggie Woodyard, James Clark, or Seth Dunlap

To request study material or other documents – Maggie Woodyard, Kria Cochran, Julie Wilson, James Clark, or Seth Dunlap

Questions concerning license issuance or agent registration – Kria Cochran or Seth Dunlap

Questions concerning records reporting requirements – Julie Wilson or Seth Dunlap

To request an inspection or report a possible violation – James Clark or Seth Dunlap

To determine if an individual or firm is licensed – Kria Cochran, James Clark, or Seth Dunlap

Any questions or concerns not mentioned above – Seth Dunlap