

Private Applicator Commodity Fumigation Certification FAQ

Who needs Private Applicator Commodity Fumigation Certification?

Private applicators are required to have the Commodity Fumigation - Z_{CF} category certification before they fumigate any harvested commodity produced on property that they own or lease.

What are the requirements for initial certification in NC?

Initial certification in Private Applicator Commodity Fumigation (Category Z_{CF}) in North Carolina requires taking and passing (> 70%) the following exams administered by the NCDA&CS (fees apply):

- A 50-question, multiple-choice private applicator exam based on the *North Carolina Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual* (the “Core” exam), and
- A 50-question, open-book, multiple-choice category exam in Commodity Fumigation (Category Z_{CF}) based on the manual entitled *Commodity Fumigation: A Certification Manual for North Carolina Private Pesticide Applicators* (Category Z_{CF} exam)
- Private applicator certification expires on September 30th of the third year following initial certification.

Is the certifying exam open-book?

Two exams are required for initial certification, the Core exam and the Commodity Fumigation (Category Z_{CF}) exam, but only the Category Z_{CF} exam is open book.

Can I use my own copy of the Commodity Fumigation manual during the open-book exam?

Test takers may not use their own manual for the exam. The NCDA&CS will provide a copy of the manual as reference for the exam taker to use while taking the Category Z_{CF} exam. No other notes are permitted during the exam.

How can I prepare for the applicator certification exam?

If you are already a certified North Carolina Private Pesticide Applicator, you will need to self-study to prepare for the Commodity Fumigation exam. The Commodity Fumigation manual the certifying exam is based on is available for purchase from NC State University's [Pesticide Safety Education eStore - Manuals](#).

If you also require initial private applicator certification, you have two options. You can purchase and self-study the Core and Commodity Fumigation manuals referenced above, which are available through NC State's [Pesticide Safety Education eStore - Manuals](#).

A second option for initial private applicator certification training is to attend an optional in-person pesticide applicator training. This [2-day pesticide school](#) presented by North Carolina Cooperative Extension is designed to prepare prospective applicators for private and commercial applicator certification exams.

- Day 1 is an 8-hour program that covers the 12 chapters of the *North Carolina Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual* (the “Core” exam).
- Day 2 offers some specialty category training in the morning (mainly for commercial

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- applicators). Certifying exams are offered in the afternoon of the second day.
- Private pesticide applicators need only pay for Day 1 of training, then show up the afternoon the second day for the exam.
 - For additional information, helpful links and our complete schedule of pesticide schools, visit the Pesticide Safety Education website at <https://pesticidesafety.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

What are the requirements for recertification in Commodity Fumigation in NC?

There are 2 options for recertification in Commodity Fumigation in North Carolina:

- **Option 1:** Pay for and pass the Core exam and the Category Z_{CF} exam again.
- **Option 2:** Retain Private Applicator status by obtaining 2 hours of “V” credits and 2 hours of “X” credits, of which 1 hour must be in commodity fumigation (Z_{CF}) for Private Commodity Fumigation. Earn the required number of continuing education certification credits by June 30th of the year in which certification expires.