



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 COMMISSIONER SID MILLER  
 “SPCS Pesticide Applicator and Course Provider Update”  
 2020 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

To address the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and licensure requirements for SPCS Pesticide applicators, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will work with the structural pesticide applicators and CEU course providers of Texas during this critical time. Licensed applicators with expiring licenses should continue to renew their license as normal so long as their CEUs were completed (if required) sometime last calendar year. This year’s CEUs are required to be completed by the end of this calendar year (December 31, 2020). Due to the restrictions of meetings in place by the Governor and many cities, many in-person CEU events have been canceled, however, TDA will allow in-person courses to be provided online using live webinars for a temporary period of time. TDA will work to ensure all the state’s pesticide applicators are able to acquire their licenses and required continuing education courses in a safe and effective manner during this time frame. Once the restrictions have been lifted and courses are scheduled again, applicators will be required to obtain their required CEUs in-person again at least every other year. Applicators are encouraged to complete online courses if they did not complete self-study online CEUs last year.

**APPRENTICE REGISTRATIONS EXPIRING**

From March 31, 2020 forward, Apprentices whose registrations are expiring and were unable to take a Technician Training Course and/or were unable to take exams due to PSI closures as a result of COVID-19 will be granted extensions.

Given the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the length of the extensions is to be determined (TBD).

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU) COURSES AND TECHNICIAN TRAINING COURSES**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TDA will allow for Department approved CEU courses and Technician Training Courses to be given as a web-based interactive course, where the audience can ask questions of the instructor, exchange information, etc. The Department must be notified ahead of time of any web-based interactive course, and we must be provided with web access to the course in the event we are able to monitor the course.

We will allow such a course to be given until further notice. Course providers are responsible for adhering to all other rules such as establishing procedures for verification of completion, including accurately recording participant attendance throughout the stated class length, etc.

**TESTING**

Since April 13, 2020, PSI has begun testing again at select locations.

**IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE**

Mike D. Kelly

Director for Consumer Service Protection

[michael.kelly@texasagriculture.gov](mailto:michael.kelly@texasagriculture.gov)

Office: (512) 463-2586

Allison Cuellar

SPCS Coordinator

[Allison.Cuellar@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:Allison.Cuellar@TexasAgriculture.gov)

Office: (512) 463-2588