## Frequently Asked Questions about Pesticide Recertification Courses:

### Q: How does TDA assign recertification credits?

**A:** Credit will be assigned on the basis of 50 minutes of actual course time per credit hour for both agriculture and structural courses. 30 minute/half credit requests are not approved by the Texas Department of Agriculture. **Course accreditation in increments of less than one credit hour is not allowed.**

### Q: What topics does TDA accredit for each subject area?

### A: Agriculture licenses:

- General: safety (safe practices, personal protective equipment, spill control and cleanup, etc.), environmental consequences (leaching, groundwater contamination, etc.), pest features (I.D., life cycles, potential damage, control, etc.), pesticide factors, equipment (pumps, nozzles, tanks, calibration, etc.), application techniques, biotechnology/transgenic crops (as it relates to pest control, i.e. Roundup-ready cotton, etc.), business ethics (pesticide recordkeeping, pesticide application stewardship, pesticide complaints, investigation, and retaliation).
- Integrated Pest Management: concepts, practices, strategies of IPM.
- Laws and Regulations: laws and regulations related to the use of pesticides, labels and label comprehension.
- Drift minimization: techniques, nozzle selection, drift reduction technology (DRT), chemicals and equipment designed to minimize drift during pesticide applications.
- Human factors: Aerial applicators only. Covers the portion of aerial application that are guided or influenced by human characteristics. This include decision making that affects the safe operation of the aircraft, the pilot, farm workers, bystanders, or those that may be affected by the aircraft during its pesticide application mission.

### Structural Pest Control licenses:

- General: IPM, federal and state laws & regulations (including label review), pesticide safety, environmental protection, equipment used for pest control, etc.
- Pest Control: the inspection, or control of general pests in and around structures such as cockroaches, ants, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, flies, rats, mice, skunks, raccoons, opossums, etc.
- Termite Control: the inspection, or control of termites, beetles or other wood-destroying insects, and wood preservation by means other than fumigation, the treatment of termites in trees and in and around structures.
- Lawn/Ornamental: the inspection or control of pests or diseases of trees, shrubs, lawns or other plantings.
- Weed Control: the inspection or control of weeds around structures such as homes, industrial environments, etc.
- Structural Fumigation: the inspection or control of pests through fumigation of structures not primarily intended to contain food, feed or grains.
- Commodity Fumigation: the inspection or control of pests

t h r o u g h fumigation of processed commodities or structures normally used to contain commodities (does NOT include raw agricultural commodities).

- Wood Preservation: involving the addition of preservatives to wood products to extend the life of the wood by preventing damage from insects, fungi, marine borers, including the treatment of crossties, poles and posts, and the retreatment of power-line poles with preservative pesticides including fumigants.

## Q: What topics does TDA accredit for recertification training?

**A:** In general, educational topics directly relating to almost any aspect of pest control, or conditions that directly affect pest control may be considered for accreditation. Some examples include:

- Pesticide label updates and label comprehension
- Pesticide health and environmental safety
- Effects of pesticides on the environment and environmental factors affecting pesticide use and performance
- Characteristics of pests, symptoms of pest infestation and damage recognition including wood destroying insects.
- Pesticide product information, including mode of action, environmental fate, etc. (no sales pitches or promotions)
- Pesticide application equipment, techniques, and calibration
- Drift prevention and/or mitigation measures
- Texas and Federal pesticide laws and regulations
- Integrated pest management principles
- Bioengineered crops as they relate to pesticide use or pesticide incorporated protectants.
- Plant nutrition and soil fertility, fertilizers and amendments when linked to pesticide fate, transport, uptake, efficacy, etc.
- Irrigation, chemigation and water quality issues as they apply to pesticide application.

## Q: What topics are generally NOT acceptable for accreditation?

**A: Exceptions may be made if a compelling case is presented as to how the specific topic is DIRECTLY related to a pesticide issue.**

- Insurance (unless related to insurance required by law for pesticide applications)
- Marketing techniques and business ethics
- General agronomic practices (planting depth, harvesting techniques, aeration, etc.)
- Public relations (marketing strategies, advertising, etc.)
- Sales pitches or presentations containing no significant technical information on pesticide products, pests, application equipment or techniques
- Product-specific training for **UNREGISTERED** pesticide products
- Information that could directly result in the use of unregistered pesticides or unlawful pest control practices (e.g. use on a site or in a manner not on the label).
- Laws and/or regulations not relevant to a pesticide applicator
- Vehicle maintenance
- Flight instruction
- Safety not related to pesticide application (ladders, lifting, driving, etc.)

## Q: How much detail is required for each presentation?

**A:** TDA evaluates the title and detailed summary of each presentation to determine the overall course credits. If too little information is provided to make a determination, TDA will not accredit the presentation accurately. If a detailed summary is provided, the evaluation process will be streamlined and the presentation will obtain the maximum allowed credits. See the example agenda on page XXX to see what is considered sufficient information