

Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner Pest Control Advisor (PCA) Registration

Note: Employees or field checkers directly supervised by a licensed PCA are no longer exempt from emergency medical care posting, decontamination facilities, and PPE requirements. [[3CCR 6720](#)]

Notices of Intent (NOI) [[3CCR 6434](#), Permit Conditions]

A completed NOI is required to be submitted to this office 24 hours before applying a restricted material. The proposed date and time of the application must be clearly filled out and the application may not begin prior to the proposed date and time. Please avoid phrases such as “nighttime,” as that is frequently too ambiguous to verify requirements. It is best if the *approximate* start time is listed using 4-digit military time or including the designation a.m. or p.m. If the NOI is denied for any reason, a new one with revised information must be submitted to proceed. The NOI is valid for the proposed date of the application, but the application can be made within four days following the proposed date. After that, the NOI must be resubmitted with a new proposed date. If the resubmittal is in this office by the fourth day, the applicator does not have to wait 24 hours. Repeated resubmissions are discouraged.

Example:

Mon., 1/1	Tues., 1/2	Wed., 1/3	Thurs., 1/4	Fri., 1/5	Sat., 1/6	Sun., 1/7
NOI submitted with 24 hours' advance notice.	Proposed Application Date	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4 - Last day to apply or resubmit without 24 hours' notice.	NOI expired. If not already resubmitted, must wait 24 hours.

Waivers [[3CCR 6434](#)]

Waiver requests are limited to critical situations where immediate control measures are needed to prevent substantial economic loss due to pest pressure or forecasted weather conditions. Requests will be approved or denied at the Commissioner’s discretion. Waivers that are routinely requested and those where non-restricted pesticides could be used, are not indicative of a critical pest problem. Waivers for herbicide applications on the basis of pest pressure will be denied, as weeds do not require immediate control measures.

Waiver requests must be in writing, identify the pest problem, and include information that substantiates the critical need for using a restricted pesticide to avoid severe economic damage. It must also indicate the status of bloom, approval of beekeepers with registered apiaries within one mile, crops under irrigation, and any other factors that might create an adverse effect by not allowing 24-hour notification.

Procedure for requesting waivers:

- Weekdays - submit by 2:00 p.m. by fax (442-265-5707) or email (agcom@co.imperial.ca.us). The request will be evaluated, and this office's formal approval or denial will be sent to the requesting party before 4:00 p.m. The approval must then be provided to the pest control operator.
- Saturdays & Holidays - Waiver requests will not be considered outside of regular business hours.
- Seedling waivers – seedling waivers do not require formal written approval by this office. A seedling must have six or fewer true leaves to qualify. This office's policy is to approve waivers for seedling crops where the NOI clearly establishes a critical pest problem on a highly susceptible crop when all other requirements are met. These NOIs may be denied for reasons other than the 24-hour requirement.

Site ID Numbers

To facilitate pesticide use reporting, sites that are treated with any pesticides, including non-restricted materials, must be issued a Site ID number. To be assigned, they must be included on a restricted materials permit or Operator ID. To add a site not already included on a permit, please submit a supplement.

Supplements

Supplements and job permit forms should be filled out by giving a complete location on the first line (do not put block designation in the space for acreage), leave a blank line after each location so we can assign a site ID in that space. Do not assign your own site ID.

Supplements may be submitted electronically by fax (442-265-5707) or email (agcom@co.imperial.ca.us). Please ensure that an authorized representative signs the form before sending it. The supplement and corresponding maps, if needed, must be legible. The signed form will be returned in the manner that it was received to indicate approval.

Conditions for Using Canal Water for Pesticide Applications [[3CCR 6610](#), [3CCR 6670](#), [FAC 11737](#)]

When using canal water for pesticide applications, you must comply with the following to prevent adverse effects to persons, property, or the environment:

- All equipment that handles pesticides and draws water from an outside source must be equipped to avoid backflow of pesticides into the water source.
- If other devices are used to draw water (buckets, cans, etc.), they may not have contained pesticides or have been pesticide contaminated.
- Full or empty pesticide containers may not be placed on any canal banks or left unattended.
- Pesticides may not be placed in the mixing tank until the water has been loaded, and the rig moved away from the allowed water source.

The following is a list of canals where water shall not be taken for use with any equipment used for mixing or applying pesticides. Prohibited canals provide residential or municipal service.

Acacia - up to gate 61	Date	Newside - up to gate 17
Alder - up to gate 92	Dogwood and laterals	Osage - up to gate 23A
All American	East Highline	Pear and all laterals
Ash	Elder - up to gate 104B	Rose - South of Keystone Rd
B canal	Evergreen	South Alamo
Best lateral	Eucalyptus - up to gate 114	Township - up to gate 21A
Bryant	Fern - up to gate 16A	Trifolium - lateral 5 up to gate 89
Central Main	Mansfield	West Side Main
C West	Mulberry - up to gate 11A	Yuma Main
Dahlia	N canal - up to gate 35	

Maps

Two clean, legible maps should be submitted with new permits or supplements. Please keep a clean original to copy for each year's permit and make updates to sensitive sites as needed.

Map Criteria

- Maps must remain legible upon faxing or photocopying in black and white.
- Leave a one-inch margin on each side and three inches on the bottom for Site Conditions.
- Orient North to the top of the page.
- Depict the field(s) and all sensitive sites or potentially impacted areas within one mile. Sensitive sites include houses, schools, churches, businesses, the international border, residential areas or cities, and bodies of water. Be sure to review and update changes on your maps (new residence, etc.) each year.
- Multiple fields are allowed on one map to the extent that components remain clear and legible.
- All crossroads must be identified by name and include the distance to the roads if not adjacent.
- Distances from the field to the sensitive sites must be indicated and should be sufficiently accurate to allow applicators to use an appropriate buffer when needed.

- Schools within one mile of a field must be indicated on the map.
- Include a non-repeating map number on the lower right-hand corner and the permit name on the top.

Likely to be rejected: plat maps, aerial imagery or color maps, illegible/blurry maps, stamped maps.

Mitigation Measures [[FAC 12973](#)]

Site conditions are binding on all applications of restricted materials. One or more of the following conditions may be added. If this office has already added conditions, DO NOT remove them when submitting maps for the following year.

Each map must have a general mitigation statement that must specifically include impacted areas shown on the map (roadways, waterways, houses, etc.). Additional site conditions may be required using the following guidelines:

1. Areas adjacent to highly populated areas such as cities, towns, industrial areas or "residential areas" (three or more contiguous dwellings) on more than one side of the field:
 - **Ground Application Only**
2. Field within 1/8 mile of residential area, school, occupied industrial areas, or international border:
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, Folex, or Paraquat as cotton harvest aid**
3. Field within 1/4 mile of residential area, school, occupied industrial areas, or international border:
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, or Folex**
4. Field within 1/2 mile of residential area, school, occupied industrial areas, or international border:
 - **No Def or Folex**
5. Schools (use one or more of these conditions depending on distance to school/daycare):
 - **No aerial applications within 1 mile of school or daycare grounds when school or daycare is in session or when school or daycare grounds are occupied.**
 - **No ground applications within 1/2 mile of school or daycare grounds when school or daycare is in session or when school or daycare grounds are occupied.**
 - **No aerial applications within 1/4 mile of school or daycare grounds within 12 hours prior to when the school or daycare will be in session.**

Note: Additional regulations for pesticide use near schools include non-restricted applications and place restrictions on applications from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. [[3CCR 6691](#)]

6. Fields adjacent to the international border with residential areas in Mexico:
 - **Ground only**
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, Folex, or Paraquat as cotton harvest aid**
 - **No drift toward international border or All-American canal**
7. Fields adjacent to the international border without a nearby residential areas in Mexico (all will apply):
 - **Fly east/west only; Do not fly over All-American canal or international border**
 - **No restricted dusts, Def, Folex, or Paraquat as cotton harvest aid**
 - **No drift toward international border or All-American canal**

Protection of Bees [[3CCR 6980](#) and [3CCR 6983](#)]

Persons intending to apply pesticides labeled toxic to bees to a blossoming plant must perform a bee check in the BeeWhere system (<https://beewhere.calagpermits.org/>). If there are any apiaries requesting notification within 1 mile, the person performing pest control must provide notification 48 hours in advance of the details of the application (time, place, acres, method, a.i., rate, contact information).