

Structural Pest Control Applicator Training Course Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction and Exam Preparation (1 hour)

- 1.1 The importance of Structural Pest Control
- 1.2 Types of Pests
- 1.3 Licensing and Its Importance
- 1.4 Recertification and Continuing Education
- 1.5

Chapter 2: Pesticides: What They Are and How They Work (2 hours)

- 2.1 Definition and Types of Pesticides (30 minutes)
- 2.2 Modes of Action of Pesticides (30 minutes)
- 2.3 Pesticide Formulations (Spray, Dust, Granules, etc.) (1 hour)

Chapter 3: Safety and Regulations (2 hours)

- 3.1 Personal Protective Equipment (40 minutes)
- 3.2 Handling, Storing, and Transporting Pesticides Safely (40 minutes)
- 3.3 California Code of Regulations (20 minutes)
- 3.4 Business and Professions Code (20 minutes)

Chapter 4: Comprehensive Pest Identification (4 hours)

- 4.1 Identifying Common Pests (1 hour)
 - 4.1.1 Ants
 - 4.1.2 Cockroaches
 - 4.1.3 Spiders
 - 4.1.4 Mosquitoes
- 4.2 Wood-Destroying Organisms (1 hour)
 - 4.2.1 Termites
 - 4.2.2 Carpenter Bees
 - 4.2.3 Other Wood-Destroying Organisms
- 4.3 Stored Product/Pantry Pests (1 hour)
- 4.4 Fabric Pests (1 hour)
- 4.5 Other Rare Pests (1 hour)

Chapter 5: Equipment and Maintenance (1 hour)

- 5.1 Types of Equipment (30 minutes)
- 5.2 Equipment Maintenance (30 minutes)

Chapter 6: Pest Control Methods (2 hours)

- 6.1 Chemical Control Methods (40 minutes)
- 6.2 Non-Chemical Control Methods (40 minutes)
- 6.3 California-Specific Control Measures and Regulations (40 minutes)

Chapter 7: Applied Pest Control (2 hours)

- 7.1 Real-world Case Studies (1 hour)
 - 7.1.1 Hypothetical Case Study 1
 - 7.1.2 Hypothetical Case Study 2
- 7.2 California-Specific Case Studies (1 hour)
 - 7.2.1 Hypothetical California Case Study 1
 - 7.2.2 Hypothetical California Case Study 2

- Chapter 8: Test Preparation and Conclusion (1.5 hours)
- 8.1 Test Your Knowledge: Quiz and Review (30 minutes)
 - 8.2 Next Steps and Course Summary (30 minutes)
 - 8.3 Disclaimer and Legal Requirements (30 minutes)

Certainly, I can break down the first chapter into multiple messages to ensure that it fits within the character limitations. Here is the first part of Chapter 1:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Structural Pest Control Training Program

Course Objectives

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of structural pest control in modern society.
2. Recognize the different types of pests and their impact on human health and infrastructure.
3. Identify the various categories of pest control licenses and their requirements.
4. Gain insight into the regulatory bodies and laws governing structural pest control in California.
5. Familiarize yourself with the study materials, exams, and continuing education necessary for license maintenance.
6. Get acquainted with the process of starting a pest control company, including requirements and responsibilities.

Section 1.1: The Importance of Structural Pest Control

Structural pest control is critical for maintaining the health and safety of both residents and the structures they inhabit. Pests such as rodents, insects, and other wildlife can cause extensive damage to buildings, contaminate food, and transmit diseases. The work of a pest control technician extends beyond simple extermination, encompassing prevention, education, and ongoing management to ensure a pest-free environment.

Section 1.2: Types of Pests

In the realm of structural pest control, the types of pests you may encounter include but are not limited to:

- **Insects**: Such as termites, ants, bed bugs, and cockroaches.
- **Rodents**: Such as mice and rats.
- **Wildlife**: Such as raccoons, bats, and squirrels.

Each of these categories requires specialized knowledge for effective control, including an understanding of their biology, behavior, and ideal environments.

Section 1.3: Licensing and Its Importance

In the state of California, anyone wishing to practice structural pest control must obtain a license from the Structural Pest Control Board. The types of licenses are as follows:

Applicator's License

The Applicator's license is an entry-level license that allows individuals to perform pest control services under the supervision of a licensed Field Representative or Operator. To qualify for this license, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Age**: Must be at least 18 years old.
- **Experience**: Must complete a minimum of 40 hours of training, with at least 20 hours focused on integrated pest management.
- **Exam**: Must pass the applicator's examination with a minimum score of 70%.

Field Representative's License

This is the next level of licensing, allowing individuals to identify infestations, perform inspections, and supervise Applicators. Here are the requirements:

- **Age**: Must be at least 18 years old.
- **Education**: A minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent.
- **Experience**: Two years of work experience under a licensed Field Representative or Operator, or relevant college coursework can count towards this requirement.
- **Exam**: A written examination must be passed, covering the laws and regulations, as well as specific subject matter exams depending on the category (e.g., Residential, Industrial and Institutional, Fumigation, etc.).

Operator's License

The Operator's license is the highest level of licensing. It allows individuals to own or manage a pest control business. Here are the requirements:

- **Age**: Must be at least 18 years old.
- **Education**: A minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent.
- **Experience**: Four years of work experience under a licensed Operator, with at least two years as a licensed Field Representative.
- **Exam**: A written examination must be passed, covering the laws and regulations, as well as specific subject matter exams depending on the category (e.g., Residential, Industrial and Institutional, Fumigation, etc.).

How to Start a Pest Control Company in California

Requirements for Starting a Pest Control Company

Qualifying Manager

A registered company must have a Qualifying Manager to operate. The Qualifying Manager must be a licensed Operator and supervise the daily business activities. If the company is registered in multiple branches, it may have multiple Qualifying Managers.

Request for Approval of Registered Company Form

Submit the completed form to the Structural Pest Control Board for review. Once approved, a company registration packet will be mailed to you.

Application for Registration of Company

Complete the application form and submit it along with the required insurance and bond information.

Required Insurance, Bond, and Workers' Compensation

- **Insurance**: Minimum of \$500,000 in general liability insurance.
- **Bond**: \$12,500 bond from an admitted surety insurer.
- **Workers' Compensation**: Proof of coverage or exemption form required.

Articles of Incorporation or Fictitious Business Name Statement

Submit the appropriate documentation based on your business structure.

Live Scan / Fingerprinting

Unlicensed owners or officers must submit fingerprints and undergo a background investigation.

Application Fee

A \$120 application fee must be submitted for company registration.

Section 1.4: Recertification and Continuing Education

Applicator's License

- **Recertification**: Every two years
- **Continuing Education**: At least 20 hours of approved courses.

Field Representative's License

- **Recertification**: Every three years
- **Continuing Education**: At least 16 hours of approved courses.

Operator's License

- **Recertification**: Every three years
- **Continuing Education**: At least 16 hours of approved courses, including 4 hours in the laws and regulations.

Section 1.5: Violations and Penalties

Violations of pest control laws and regulations can lead to disciplinary actions, penalties, and even the revocation of licenses. Here is a breakdown of the types of penalties and what they entail:

Administrative Fines

- Minor offenses may lead to administrative fines ranging from \$200 to \$5,000.
- These fines can be assessed per violation, and multiple offenses can accumulate.

License Suspension

- More severe offenses could result in the temporary suspension of the license.
- During this time, the licensee is not authorized to conduct any form of pest control services.

License Revocation

- In extreme cases involving repeated or egregious offenses, a license may be permanently revoked.

Legal Prosecution

- Some offenses, such as fraudulent practices or causing bodily harm, could lead to criminal prosecution.

Section 1.6: Additional Resources and References

This section offers various resources that can be used for further understanding and compliance.

1. **Structural Pest Control Board Website**: The primary source of official information, forms, and updates.
2. **Local County Agricultural Commissioner's Office**: For additional rules and guidelines that may apply in your specific county.
3. **Pest Control Associations**: Various state and national organizations offer resources, training, and advocacy for pest control professionals.
4. **Legal Advisors**: Always advisable to consult with legal experts to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations.
5. **Educational Institutions**: Universities and extension programs often offer courses, workshops, and seminars on pest management.

Section 1.7: Summary and Conclusion

To summarize, this chapter has covered the following:

- The different licenses available for pest control in California and their respective requirements.

- The process and requirements to start a pest control company.
- The need for ongoing education and recertification.
- Penalties for violations and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

As you navigate the complex landscape of pest control regulation in California, always remember to consult the official sources and continuously update your knowledge and skills. The guidelines presented here offer a comprehensive foundation, but they are not a substitute for legal advice or the most current regulations.