




FACT SHEET

Pesticide Management's Top 10 Compliance Issues and How to Fix Them

1. **Sale of unregistered pesticides.** All pesticides that are sold or used in Connecticut [must be registered with DEEP's Pesticide Program](#). Pesticides are broadly defined and include insecticides, herbicides, antimicrobials, fungicides and most other products that are designed or marketed to control or repel a pest. The manufacturer or distributor is responsible for registering the product. In most cases, federal EPA registration must be obtained before the state registration process can begin. Applications must be submitted through [DEEP's online product registration system](#).
2. **Unlicensed Arboriculture.** [An arborist license is required](#) for persons advertising, soliciting or contracting to do arboriculture in Connecticut. As defined in the arborist law, "arboriculture means any work done for hire to improve the condition of fruit, shade, or ornamental trees by feeding or fertilizing, or by pruning, trimming, bracing, treating cavities or other methods of improving tree conditions, or protecting trees from damage from insects or diseases or curing these conditions by spraying or any other method." The licensed arborist is a supervisory pesticide applicator, with respect to the use of pesticides. The arborist license is category 3D under the [commercial pesticide supervisor certification](#).
3. **Business not registered.** A [Certificate of Registration from DEEP](#) is required prior to any person operating a pesticide application business in Connecticut. The business registration is required in addition to individual applicator certification. Details of these requirements can be found in [Sections 22a-61\(a\) and 22a-66c\(a\)](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes.
4. **Business registration not updated.** A [Certificate of Registration from DEEP](#) is required prior to any person operating a pesticide application business in Connecticut. If the name, address, email, phone number, person responsible for the business or certified supervisor or operator changes, you must update [your online account](#) within 30 days.
5. **Unlawful work requiring supervisory license.** A [supervisory certificate](#) is required for commercial applicators who are responsible for deciding whether or not pesticides are to be employed, how they are to be mixed, where they are to be employed, what pesticides are to be used, the dosage and timing involved in the pesticide use and the methods of application and precautions to be taken in the use of such pesticides. The supervisory certificate allows the licensee to purchase restricted-use pesticides from a registered dealer.
6. **Failure to employ supervisory applicator.** Every company applying pesticides commercially [must have a certified supervisory applicator](#). That individual must either be present at the site during pesticide application or provide specific written instructions to the certified operator. The operator must not apply pesticides without the written instructions. If, during the course of making an application, a treatment is required or requested that is not included in the written instructions held by the operator, the operator must not perform that treatment until he has obtained written instructions pertaining to the new application.
7. **Failure to provide written instructions.** [Written instructions are required](#) when the supervisor is not present when the pesticide application is occurring. The written instructions must include: the supervisor's name and certification number, the operator's name and certification number,



the pest to be controlled, the pesticide to be used, and the directions for use of the pesticide. The supervisor must also be available if and when needed. Once the written instructions have been provided to an operator, the operator may not alter the instructions or apply pesticides contrary to the instructions.

8. **Use inconsistent with labeling.** The [label on a pesticide package or container](#) and the accompanying instructions are a key part of pesticide regulation. The label provides critical information about how to handle and safely use the pesticide product and avoid harm to human health and the environment. [It is unlawful](#) to use any registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with labeling
9. **Use of restricted pesticides without certification.** There are two classes of commercial certification - supervisory and operational. In addition, farmers and other growers are classified as private applicators. A [commercial junior operator certificate](#) does not allow the holder to purchase [restricted pesticides](#) or to run their own pesticide business. A [commercial supervisory certificate](#) allows the certificate holder to purchase restricted-use pesticides, directly pertaining to their category(ies), from a registered dealer. A [private applicator certificate](#) must be obtained by a farmer in order to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides on agricultural crops.
10. **Failure to maintain records.** A pesticide application business [shall maintain records](#) for not less than five years from the date such record is made or amended, whichever is later. The record shall indicate, for each application of a pesticide made on behalf of the business: the name and certification number of the commercial supervisor and the commercial operation, the kind and amount of pesticide used and the amount of acreage treated if applicable, the date and place of application, the pest treated for, and the crop or site treated.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only based on the information available as of the date of its publication and does not represent a formal jurisdictional determination by which DEEP or any other permitting authority referenced will be bound. Information contained in this fact sheet does not represent a comprehensive list of all permit requirements potentially applicable, which in most cases can only be determined on a site-specific basis. It is intended only to provide information on permits that may be required. Refer to the most current statutes, regulations, and public acts for specific language pertaining to each permit. It is your responsibility to comply with all applicable laws. Contact DEEP (DEEP.CONCIERGE@ct.gov) with questions regarding a specific site or project.

Rev. March 2025