

INFORMATION REGARDING THE REGISTRATION OF A PEST CONTROL OPERATOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT NO. 36 OF 1947

Pest control operators (PCO's) are regulated under Act No. 36 of 1947, and a person must apply to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to become registered. Pest control operators are certified in specialised areas of pest control. Each field necessitates specialised training and certification to ensure that the PCO has the appropriate knowledge and skills to safely and successfully apply the restricted remedy. As a result, a PCO certified to conduct fumigation may not administer structural pest control remedies unless obtaining additional structural pest control certification. Remedies that are registered for use in agriculture (with the exception of aerial application and fumigation), will require a PCO to be certified in the field of "agriculture and forestry".

Accompanying this letter is the documentation circulated by DALRRD that describes the process of registration of a PCO. Below are some of the key requirements:

- A person must do a course to obtain a national certificate in pest control from a relevant accredited academy.
- The person must obtain practical experience under a registered PCO for 6 to 12 months, depending on the relevant field of certification.
- A person with a diploma or degree in a biological field such as entomology, pathology, crop protection, weed science, or any relevant qualification may be exempted from the requirement of practical experience depending on prior experience.
- The person should undergo a medical examination and must submit the template report completed by a qualified medical practitioner with their application.

Following the approval of the PCO application, the certificate will be valid for a period of three years. To retain the certificate, the PCO must submit a renewal application before the validity term expires. It is essential that PCOs provide evidence that they are competent and actively working in the field in which they have obtained the certificate. To help the industry register PCOs, the following is a list of accredited academies that offer national certificate in pest control.

Pest Management Academy

The Pest Management Academy (PMA) offers a Level 4 NQF course in Agriculture and Forestry as part of its skills development program. Available in both classroom and E-learning formats, the classroom sessions are held over three days on scheduled dates, while the E-learning option allows students up to one year to complete the course at their own pace. The academy also offers supervision for pest control operator candidates subject to terms and conditions. For more information on the course offered and PCO supervision, please contact the PMA.

Website: <https://www.pestmanagementacademy.com/pest/>

Contact number: 0861 99 99 00 / 083 294 8022 / 011 453 0075

Email address: enquiries@pma.training

PCITA

The Pest Control Industries Training Academy (PCITA) offers a range of courses at NQF Level 5, available in classroom, online and E-learning formats. Classroom and online sessions are held over three days on designated dates, while the E-learning option allows students 30 days to complete the course at their own pace. Additionally, the academy offers supervision for pest control operator candidates. For more details on available courses and to enquire about PCO supervision, please contact PCITA.

Website: <https://www.pcita.org.za/>

Contact number: 012 654 7708

Email address: admin@pcita.org.za

DeltaTrax Projects

DeltaTrax Projects offers a certificate at NQF level 4. The course is available in classroom, online and E-learning formats to suit different learning preferences. Classroom and online sessions are typically conducted over three days. For groups of five or more candidates, classroom sessions can be arranged at a location of your choice. E-learning format allows students to complete the course at their own pace and provide students access to a 24/7 backup support line for assistance. For more information on available courses and to enquire about PCO supervisors, please contact DeltaTrax Projects.

Website: <https://www.deltatrax.co.za/training/certificate-pest-control-operations/>

Contact number: 012 566 3315 / 082 551 7109

Email address: admin@deltatrax.co.za

Grain Training Institute

The Grain Training Institute offers an NQF Level 5 course, which is available in classroom, E-learning, and correspondence formats. Classroom sessions are held over two weeks on scheduled dates, or alternatively a date can be arranged at a central location if five or more students are interested. Both E-learning and correspondence options allow students up to six months to complete the course. The correspondence format is specifically designed for students without computer access. For more information and course schedules, please contact the Grain Training Institute.

Website: <https://www.gtinstitute.co.za/>

Contact number: 071 312 7413 / 083 227 8161

Email address: info@gtinstitute.co.za

Invader Plant Specialists

Invader Plant Specialists offers comprehensive training and mentoring in various areas of invasive alien plant control and bush encroachment management. While they currently do not provide training specifically tailored to the pest control operator field in forestry and agriculture, they do offer a range of other specialized courses related to invasive plant management. For more details on available courses, please contact Invader Plant Specialists directly.

Website: <https://www.invaderplantspecialists.com/>

Contact number: 021 976 6127 / 083 413 7411 / 083 412 7411

Email address: invaderplantis@gmail.com

New Africa Skills Development

New Africa Skills Development offers in-classroom courses, typically held over five days. While the training sessions primarily take place at their main campus in KwaZulu-Natal, they provide flexibility for clients nationwide. For groups of 10 or more candidates, the course can be delivered at a location of the client's choosing. For more information on course availability, schedules and locations, please contact New Africa Skills Development.

Website: <https://www.nasd.co.za/>

Contact number: 033 330 7002 / 083 677 0710

Email address: admin@nasd.co.za

AVCASA

The course previously known as the AVCASA Basic Crop Protection Course has been transferred to CropLife South Africa. Although the AVCASA course prior to the transfer had the relevant accreditation for use in support of PCO registration, during the transfer, the course unfortunately lost its accreditation. The CropLife South Africa Basic Crop Protection Course remains similar to the AVCASA Basic Crop Protection Course with modifications to the curriculum to align with current legislation. CropLife SA is investigating options to reinstate the required accreditation. The course is offered in an E-learning format, allowing students to enrol at any time throughout the year and complete the course at their own pace, within a 12-month period. For more information, please contact CropLife South Africa.

Website: <https://basiccropprotection.easy2learn.co.za/Default>

Email address: training@croplife.co.za