

# AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES



## COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

**Koren J. Widdel**

Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures  
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[www.smcgov.org/agwm](http://www.smcgov.org/agwm)

**TO:** SAN MATEO COUNTY GROWERS AND NURSERYMEN

**SUBJECT:** 2025 RESTRICTED MATERIAL PERMIT/OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER RENEWAL

Our department will begin issuing 2025 Restricted Material Permits and Operator Identification Numbers on December 1, 2024. **All businesses growing an agricultural commodity must obtain an Operator ID or Restricted Materials Permit annually prior to applying pesticides.**

To obtain or renew your restricted materials permit or operator identification number you will need to do the following.

1. Set up an appointment with a District Biologist at (650) 363-4700.
2. Provide a copy if applicable:
  - a. Private applicator certification card
  - b. Restricted Materials Alternatives form if you are renewing a Restricted Materials Permit
3. Permits/Operator Identification Numbers will be reviewed in detail, including the site maps. Any necessary changes must be made in our database prior to the permit being issued. Growers who use only non-restricted materials must renew their annual Operator Identification Number and review their site information with staff as well.
4. The biologist will provide a copy of your Restricted Materials Permit/ Operator Identification Number for you to sign and return to the biologist. The biologist will provide you with a signed copy.
5. You will be contacted by your District Biologist for your required annual headquarters/records inspection.

**Pesticide Use Near Schools:** All production agriculture operations located within ¼ mile of a public K-12 school or a licensed daycare facility are required to notify schools/daycare facilities by **April 30, 2025** of all organic or conventional pesticides and adjuvants, expected to be used July 2025-June 2026. The required notification can be provided to the schools beginning Jan. 1, 2025 through CalAgPermits.

**Pesticide use reports** may be submitted on-line in CalAgPermits. If you already have a computer program for your records, it may be able to link to CalAgPermits directly, saving you time and paper. Please contact your district biologist if interested or to request a username and password for CalAgPermits to [smateoag@smcgov.org](mailto:smateoag@smcgov.org) or contact our office at (650) 363-4700.

We always welcome your feedback so please visit our Department website to complete a short one minute online survey at [www.smcgov.org/agwm](http://www.smcgov.org/agwm).

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and best wishes for the New Year!



## 2025 PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

Private Applicator Certificates (PAC) which qualify you to be a certified applicator, allow the use federal and California restricted pesticides, and enable you to train employees as pesticide handlers and/or fieldworkers, are valid for 3 years, expiring on December 31 of the expiration year. This PAC can be renewed by 6 hours of continuing education over the 3 years or by re-taking the exam. However, because the exam was amended in 2023, all applicants must take the new exam when their certificate comes up for renewal. and cannot renew with CE hours. In addition, any grower wishing to use a restricted fumigant such as Weevil-cide must take an additional exam: The Burrowing Vertebrate Pest Control exam. This exam will only be administered to those who have already taken the revised 2023 PAC exam. All exams must be passed with a score of 70% or higher.

### **CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS**

**LAST NAME: A THROUGH H** (must take exam)

Certificates issued for last names beginning **A through H** will expire **December 31, 2024**.

**LAST NAME: I THROUGH Q** (must take exam)

Certificates issued for last names beginning **I through Q** will expire **December 31, 2025**.

**LAST NAME: R THROUGH Z** (can renew with CE hours unless you are a new applicant).

Certificates issued for last names beginning **R through Z** will expire **December 31, 2026**.

This year our annual Grower Meeting which supplies 2 hours of continuing education, will be on December 3, 2024, 10am-12:30pm at the Half Moon Bay Library. There is no virtual option this year. Please see the attached agenda.

Our department has copies of the new Private applicator study book to lend for free. You may order your own copy, \$29 for the soft cover or \$10 for a digital copy. There is also a free digital study guide that you can download from the DPR website for the Burrowing Vertebrate Fumigation test. In addition, Napa County has created a 30 minute training video for IPM for Private Applicators that can be found on the Napa County Ag Commissioner channel on Youtube.

We will be offering two training sessions showing the video and offering the **PAC exam on December 12 and 19** at 1pm at the San Mateo Farm Bureau Building, 765 Main Street, Half Moon Bay in the second floor conference room.

Private applicators who intend to use a fumigant product *other than those labeled for the control of burrowing vertebrate pests* must obtain a qualified applicator certificate (QAC) or qualified applicator license (QAL) in the appropriate fumigant use category(ies) from DPR: 'L' Soil Fumigation and/or category 'M' Non-Soil Fumigation (wine barrel, corks, commodity fumigation, etc.). The new certification requirement began on Jan. 1, 2024 to be in compliance.

Please contact our department or your District Biologist for exam appointments, study guides, questions or to sign up for the PAC exam on Dec 12 or 18.



**2024 SAN MATEO GROWER CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP**  
**Pesticide Laws and Regulation and Pest Management Update**  
**Tuesday, December 3 2024 10:00-12:30 pm**  
**Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas St, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019**

## AGENDA

- 10:00-10:10 am      Opening Remarks and Emerging Issues for Agriculture  
Koren Widdel, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer  
San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures
- 10:10-11:10 am      Pesticide Laws and Regulation Updates  
New Regulations-  
Neonicotinoids-  
Rodenticides restrictions  
Updates on School Notification  
Cancellation of DCPA- Dacthal  
DPR License Fee Increases-  
What to Expect for Fieldworker Inspections  
**Jenny Gossett**, Biologist/Standard Specialist  
San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures
- 11:10-12:10pm      Produce Safety Modernization Act  
IPM practices for compliance with Produce Safety Modernization Act:  
Food Borne Illness Prevention  
Worker Health and Hygiene  
Water  
Equipment Sanitization  
**Angela Terrazas**  
*Senior Environmental Scientist,*  
*Produce Safety Rule and Outreach Specialist*  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Workshop provides 2 hours of DPR continuing education units  
All San Mateo County growers are encouraged to attend to learn about regulation updates may impact your  
operation. Please RSVP by Friday, November 22, 2024.  
If you have any questions, please contact us at (650)363-4700

**SAN MATEO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

GROWER PESTICIDE USE CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

RESERVATION FORM

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024**

Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas St, Half Moon Bay

10:00 AM to 12:10 PM

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The following individuals will be attending the workshop:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please RSVP by **Friday, November 22, 2024**

Your reservation will ensure we have materials reserved for you.

Mail: P.O. Box 999, Redwood City CA 94064-0999

Fax: **(650) 367-0130**

Email: [SMateoAg@smcgov.org](mailto:SMateoAg@smcgov.org)

Call: (650) 363-4700.



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**DATE:** November 7, 2024

**SUBJECT:** First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides Restricted Use Material Status, Prohibited and Allowed Uses Effective January 1, 2025

### **First Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides: Restricted Use Material Status**

Assembly Bill No. 2552 was passed and signed by the Governor on September 25, 2024, and will go into effect on January 1, 2025. This bill adds first generation anticoagulant rodenticides as restricted materials, specifically products with the active ingredients: diphacinone, chlorophacinone and warfarin to California Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) 12978.7. This code section currently restricts the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides with the active ingredients of brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difencoum and difethialone. This update will prohibit most uses, require application by a certified applicator and restrict sales to the end user by a Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) licensed pest control dealer. The first generation anticoagulant rodenticides (diphacinone, chlorophacinone, and warfarin) have not been added in the code as California restricted materials and therefore do not require a restricted material permit.

### **Prohibited Uses**

Effective January 1, 2025, it is unlawful to use first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in **residential settings**, and most **industrial** and **institutional** settings, such as restaurants, grocery stores, airports, offices, construction sites, ports and terminal buildings, shipyards, timber yards, schools, shopping malls, sewers, and sewage treatment plants. Many **non-production agricultural** uses, such as cemeteries, golf courses, parks, highways, and railroads, are also prohibited.

Additionally, the definition of “wildlife habitat area” has been expanded to include “any park or wildlife refuge managed by a state agency, regional government, quasi-government agency, or by a special district.” Use of first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in a wildlife habitat area is prohibited unless the use meets one of the exemptions as an allowed use.

### **Allowed Uses**

Effective January 1, 2025, first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides are restricted materials and **must be applied by or under the supervision of a certified applicator**. A certified applicator is someone who has a license with DPR, the Structural Pest Control Board or a Private Applicator Certificate (PAC).

Allowed uses (exceptions to the prohibited uses) include:

- Government agency employees protecting water supply infrastructure and facilities (e.g., wells, surface-water intakes, dams, reservoirs, storage tanks, drinking-water facilities, pipes, and aqueducts).

- Use by a mosquito or vector control district, including use under a contract with a pest control business licensed by the Department or registered with the Structural Pest Control Board.
- For eradication of nonnative invasive species on offshore islands.
- If the Department of Fish and Wildlife determines the use is required to control or eradicate an invasive rodent population for the protection of threatened or endangered species or their habitats.
- To control an actual or potential infestation associated with an urgent, non-routine public health need declared by the State Public Health Officer or a local public health officer.
- At FDA-registered and inspected facilities involved in commercial manufacture, preparation, compounding, etc., of drugs.
- At medical waste generators as defined in Health and Safety Code section 117705, such as the following examples:
  - Medical, dental, and veterinary offices, clinics, hospitals, surgery centers, etc.;
  - Pet shops;
  - Trauma scene waste management practitioners.
- For research funded by DPR to protect the food system and the environment or reevaluation.
- On agricultural sites producing any horticultural, viticultural, aquacultural, forestry, dairy, livestock, poultry, bee, or farm product.
- At a warehouse used to store foods for human or animal consumption.
- At a food manufacturing or processing plant, such as a slaughterhouse or cannery.
- At a factory, brewery, or winery; including restaurants with an attached winery or brewery.
- On-farm water storage and conveyance facilities to protect on-farm water supply systems, facilities, and related infrastructure and this includes on-farm areas such as waterways, irrigation canals, levies, dams, ponds, reservoirs, wells, water tanks, irrigation pumps and pump houses, and drip tape or other irrigation lines outside of farm fields.
- On-farm storage housing rights-of-way and other transportation infrastructure materials to protect on-farm transportation infrastructure. This includes on-farm areas such as driveways (including driveways to barns and houses), farm or ranch roads (such as along farm fields), and bridge or culvert embankments.

**For an allowed use of first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides**, the product labeling and other applicable pesticide laws and regulations must be followed. In the event of a conflict between labeling requirements, other pesticide laws and regulations, and FAC section 12978.7, the strictest requirement must be followed.

A restricted material permit is **not** required for an allowed use of first generation anticoagulant rodenticides (diphacinone, chlorophacinone and warfarin) under FAC 12978.7 (f) and (g). A restricted material permit **is** required for second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difencoum and difethialone). Please contact your district biologist if you need to amend your operator identification number or restricted material permit.

To dispose of existing first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides products appropriately, please contact your local hazardous waste disposal program.

If you have questions on this amended regulation, please contact our office at (650) 363-4700.

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**DATE:** November 7, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Restrictions on Neonicotinoid Uses in Non-Agriculture Outdoor Settings  
Effective January 1, 2025

This letter announces a revision to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 12838 by Assembly Bill (AB) 363 (Chapter 836, Statutes of 2023). Effective January 1, 2025, **neonicotinoid pesticide products used for non-agricultural uses on outdoor ornamental plants, trees, or turf can only be sold by licensed dealers and applied by California certified commercial applicators.**

Neonicotinoid pesticides are defined as pesticides containing acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, or any other chemical designated by the department as belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

A California certified commercial applicator is one who has a valid Qualified Applicator License (QAL), Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) except subcategory Q (Maintenance Gardener Pest Control), Structural Pest Control Operator or Field Representative license, or Vector Control Technician. **Neonicotinoids used in non-agricultural settings cannot be applied by employees unless properly certified**, even if under the supervision of a certified commercial applicator.

Non-agricultural use sites include home use, industrial or institutional use, structural use, and vector control use. Examples of outdoor, non-agricultural use sites that would fall under these restrictions include:

- Outdoor applications to ornamental nursery stock at a retail nursery.
- Outdoor applications to ornamental plants in a non-agricultural use setting, such as landscaping around homes and other residences, schools, libraries, airports, and businesses.
- Outdoor applications to all trees in non-agricultural use settings, including “nonproduction” fruit and nut trees around homes and residences.
- Outdoor applications to turf in non-agricultural use settings.

Pesticide use on parks or recreation areas, greenbelts, golf courses, cemeteries and along rights-of way are considered “Agricultural use” and are unaffected by this change.

To dispose of existing neonicotinoid products appropriately, please contact your local hazardous waste disposal program.

If you have questions on this amended regulation, please contact our office at (650) 363-4700.