



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

# Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator (NPA) License Fact Sheet for Golf Courses

## **HOW DO I BECOME QUALIFIED FOR A NPA LICENSE?**

If you are a certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator with an appropriate license category, you already qualify to apply for the NPA license without needing to take additional exams. Alternatively, you may take and pass the required exams. Additional options and information are discussed in the frequently asked questions [document](#).

## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE NPA LICENSE?**

Beginning on November 17, 2023, you can apply for this license using a form available on the [ODA website](#). Note: The online license renewal system on the ODA website cannot be used to apply for a new NPA license, but it will be available in November 2024 for those wishing to renew their 2025 NPA license. This means anyone who wants to apply for a new NPA license for 2024 must apply using a paper application.

## **CAN I JUST KEEP USING MY COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE INSTEAD?**

You may continue using your Commercial Pesticide Applicator license with the appropriate license categories if you meet each of the conditions described in Oregon Administrative Rule ([OAR 603-057-0190](#)). In this case, your employer must also be licensed as a Commercial Pesticide Operator with the appropriate license categories. This may be beneficial for those applying pesticides on both their employer's property and their customer's property.

## **I AM EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC GOLF COURSE AND HAVE A PUBLIC PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE. DO I NEED TO SWITCH TO THE NPA LICENSE?**

No. The NPA license excludes pesticide applications or other uses already covered by the public pesticide applicator license.

## **OUR GOLF COURSE PRODUCES SOD OR ORNAMENTALS FOR TRANSPLANTATION TO THE GOLF COURSE PORTION OF THEIR PROPERTY (i.e., 19<sup>TH</sup> GREEN). IS THIS COVERED BY THE NPA LICENSE?**

No. This is considered agricultural production. Therefore, if you apply a restricted use pesticide for the purposes of producing these plants, the Private Applicator license would be required. Note: the Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator license specifically excludes pesticide uses already covered by a Private Applicator license.

## **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Additional information is available in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) [document](#) and [ODA Rulemaking Webpage](#).

**TABLE 1. GOLF COURSE - LICENSING SCENARIOS**

| Scenario <sup>1</sup>  | Licensing Requirement   |
|--|---|
| <p>Private golf course employee needs to apply a restricted use pesticide (RUP) to property their employer owns or leases (golf course, clubhouse, etc.) for a purpose other than agricultural production.</p>   | <p><u>Applicator:</u> The individual must hold a noncommercial pesticide applicator license with the appropriate license categories.<sup>2</sup></p> <p><u>Employer:</u> The individual’s employer (business entity) is <u>not</u> required to hold a pesticide license for these pesticide applications.</p>   |
| <p>A private golf course employee applies RUPs for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity (e.g., produce ornamental plants that they later transplant to the golf course portion of their property).</p>   | <p><u>Applicator:</u> The individual must have a Private Applicator license.<sup>3</sup></p> <p><u>Employer:</u> The individual’s employer (business entity) is not required to hold a pesticide license for these pesticide applications.</p>  |
| <p>A business is contracted to apply pesticides (General or Restricted Use) to privately or publicly owned property (e.g., golf course, residential property). The business does not own or lease the property that will be treated.</p>   | <p><u>Applicator:</u> The individual who applies the pesticide must hold a commercial pesticide applicator license with the appropriate license categories.<sup>2</sup></p> <p><u>Employer:</u> Additionally, the individual’s employer (business entity) must hold a commercial pesticide operator license with the appropriate license categories.</p>  |
| <p>A Homeowner’s Association (HOA) maintains common areas in a residential community AND owns or leases a private golf course (such as in a resort).</p> <p>a. An employee of the HOA needs to apply an RUP to common areas (turf/landscape/rights-of-way areas) that the HOA owns or leases and has maintenance-related responsibilities over these common areas.</p> <p>b. An employee of the HOA needs to apply a pesticide (General or Restricted Use Pesticide) to turf/landscape, right-of-way areas on privately-owned residential property that is within the boundaries of the HOA. The HOA does not own this property but has maintenance-related responsibilities over this property.</p> | <p>a. The HOA employee applying the RUP must have a noncommercial pesticide applicator license with the appropriate license categories.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>b. The HOA employee applying the pesticide and their employer must have commercial licensing.</p> <p><u>Applicator:</u> The individual who applies the pesticide must hold a commercial pesticide applicator license with the appropriate license categories.<sup>2</sup></p> <p><u>Employer:</u> Additionally, the individual’s employer (business entity) must hold a commercial pesticide operator license with the appropriate license categories.</p> |

**TABLE 1. GOLF COURSE - LICENSING SCENARIOS (CONTINUED)**

| Scenario <sup>1</sup>   | Licensing Requirement   |
|---|---|
| <p>c. An employee of the HOA performs all of the above (“a.” and “b.”).</p> | <p>c. Either of the following licensing options are acceptable (choose what works best for your business):</p> <p><b>OPTION 1:</b><br/> <u>Applicator:</u> The individual who applies the pesticide must have a commercial pesticide applicator license with the appropriate license categories. Note: The individual can utilize their commercial pesticide applicator license and therefore does not need to hold a noncommercial pesticide applicator license. This option reduces regulatory complexity.</p> <p><u>Employer:</u> Additionally, the individual’s employer (business entity) must have a commercial pesticide operator license with the appropriate license categories.<sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>OPTION 2:</b><br/>           Either noncommercial or commercial licensing are utilized depending on the pesticide application scenario, as described above. Note: This requires the applicator to have more than one license.</p> |

<sup>1</sup>For simplicity, the scenarios in this table exclude applications of pesticides via aircraft, pesticide applications for research purposes, and pesticide applications to the campus of a school as defined on ORS 634.700.

<sup>2</sup>If appropriately supervised by the licensed noncommercial or commercial pesticide applicator with the appropriate license categories and permitted by the pesticide label, a licensed pesticide apprentice or immediately supervised trainee may make the pesticide application.

<sup>3</sup>Unlicensed individuals can make ground applications of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) if permitted by the pesticide labeling and they are supervised by a licensed Private Applicator that is their employer or co-worker. The pesticide application must be for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities or forest crops and must be made on land owned or leased by the individual or the employer of the individual.