



CTAG

Certification & Training Assessment Group — National Partnerships for Safe & Effective Pesticide Management through Education, Training & Competency Assessment

CTAG Board of Directors June 2007 Meeting Summary Report to AAPSE

1. Operational Issues

Expiring Terms & New Members. With the change in CTAG's charter last fall reducing the overall term of the co-chair position from 6 to 4 years (one year vice-chair, two years co-chair, one year past chair), Carol Ramsay's (WA-CES) term of past chair expired March 31, 2007. Roger Flashinski (WI-CES), whose term on the Board began March 31, 2007 along with Candace Bartholomew (CT-CES), Dave Duncan (CA-SLA), and Doug Jones (GA-SLA), was voted by the Board to serve as vice chair; consequently, his term is now extended until March 31, 2011. The Board will seek nominations this summer for an additional CES member to fill Roger's position.

2. EPA Updates

C&T/WPS Regulatory Changes. EPA distributed revised issue papers in May 2007, and set June 15 as the deadline for stakeholders to submit comments. As the charge for the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) subgroup on Worker Safety Regulatory Change comes to an end, they will be submitting a close-out report to the full PPDC with its recommendations; this report is expected in May 2008.

The issue of working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator is largely unresolved. There are limits in FIFRA preventing EPA from implementing training requirements in some industry segments. Given the lack of information about applications made under the direct supervision, several Board members will develop a survey to determine the current status of states' requirements. It is intended to distribute this survey at the summer AAPCO meeting and the 2007 C&T Workshop.

Regulatory Change Cost Analysis. Joe Hogue, OPP, shared with the Board their ongoing work in developing the cost analysis of implementing the proposed C&T/WPS regulatory changes. The costs focus primarily on the regulated community, rather than on enforcement (unless, of course, the regulation contains specific requirements for states). There are many data gaps, and OPP is developing a comprehensive list of those gaps to share with stakeholders and other organizations and ask them whether they are aware of any existing data.

PSEP Funding. EPA will maintain the pass-through funds at the full \$1.2M for the interagency agreement with USDA to fund PSEP in FY07. Ongoing program assessment between EPA and USDA regarding accountability and unspent funds is an area of focus, but relations between management continue to improve. EPA anticipates significant budget cuts in FY08.

The Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) is up for reauthorization in 2008 and program stakeholders are working to get a portion of the fund to support PSEP. PRIA funds would be in addition to the pass-through funds; if approved, funds would be available in FY09.

CPARD – Certification Plan and Reporting Database. Beta testing of the new version is going well and should be ready for use this fall. The new version will have a standard set of reports, but not the option to create custom reports. A list of enhancements is being kept for incorporation into subsequent versions.

3. Workgroup Updates

Exam/Manual Development. The Board agreed to distribute the end product of this workgroup, "A Flexible Process for Developing Effective, Integrated Licensure Tests and Pesticide Training Manuals" as a tool document. The white paper that was created in conjunction with this document will not be distributed because it is redundant of current EPA regulatory changes. Instead, relevant points contained in the white paper will be incorporated in a revised introduction to the tool document.

Continued Competency. FIFRA requires states to ensure continued competency of applicators, but has no description of a recertification program. Thus, this workgroup gathered input from states to describe their "ideal" recertification system. Based on the responses, the Board agreed to the following: 1) establish a maximum recertification period (e.g., 3-5 years) rather than a minimum period, 2) retesting should be offered as an option, 3) an oversight component to training is necessary (quality/impact of training, quality of trainers, etc.), 4) separate exams for certification and recertification would be unduly burdensome, and 5) recommend that at least 50% of credits come from core competencies, but remain silent on category-specific credits.

The workgroup will continue work to refine the results and to solicit additional responses.

4. Other Documents/Fact Sheets.

Reciprocity. The white paper, "Conventional Reciprocity for Issuing Cross-Jurisdictional Pesticide Certifications: Definitions, Strategies, and Concerns", will be distributed at the 2007 C&T Workshop.

Funding Resource. The final draft of the fact sheet, "Non-Traditional Funding for Pesticide Safety Education Programs", will be distributed at the 2007 C&T Workshop.

Copyright. Endorsed by the Board, this new fact sheet, "Copyright and C&T", describes the legal requirements of state SLA and CES programs when using material created by others. With increased emphasis of sharing pesticide educational materials and exam among states, copyright is an issue that is largely misunderstood. The Board agreed to distribute the fact sheet at the 2007 C&T Workshop, and to have a breakout session on copyright during the Workshop.

5. E-labeling.

Many registrants are distributing supplemental labeling (section 24c and 18s) via electronic means while OECA believes any electronic distribution of labels/labeling information is illegal. Although the Endangered Species Program is issuing bulletins electronically, they are considered labeling by reference on the label. The Board decided that this is an issue with the registrants, and not with CTAG.

6. Federal Agency Certification Plans.

Federal agencies can develop their own certification plans but there is no requirement for states to accept federal agency plans. Most federal plans have not been kept up to date and there is confusion between federal agencies and SLAs on the state's authority in dealing with misapplications. Further input will be sought before the next Board meeting.

7. DOD Training Facilities.

Heightened security is preventing non-military applicators from attending training programs held at military facilities. The Board questioned whether C&T program managers could attend a DOD training program to observe its content and delivery. This option will be pursued.

8. Next Board Meeting.

The next CTAG Board meeting is scheduled for November 6-8, 2007. Location to be determined.