



# CTAG

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

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## CTAG Board of Directors Meeting March 10 - 11, 2004

The CTAG board of directors met in Arlington, VA on March 10 and 11, 2004. The following CTAG board of directors members participated in the meeting: Kevin Keaney, CTAG co-chair; Gina Davis, CTAG co-chair; Carol Ramsay, CTAG vice chair; Richard Pont; Jeaneanne Gettle; Monte Johnson; Jack Peterson; Win Hock; and Al Muench, CTAG secretary.

Four members were not present: Carl Martin, Bill Tozer, Elaine Wilson, and, Pat O'Connor-Marer.

More information about each board member is at <http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/board.html>

### 1. CTAG Operational Issues

#### AAPCO Update

On March 7, 2004, Gina Davis and Jack Peterson gave a detailed CTAG update to the AAPCO board of directors. (A copy of the update is on the CTAG web site at [http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/pdf/AAPCO\\_04.pdf](http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/pdf/AAPCO_04.pdf)).

#### CTAG Charter

Several amendments to the CTAG charter were approved. The revised charter is available on the CTAG web site at <http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/>

#### Board Member Departures and Arrivals

Mary Ellen Setting, Maryland Department of Agriculture; Elaine Wilson, TPPC liaison, and Jeanne Heying resigned their positions. Pat O'Connor-Marer completed his term. Kathy Dictor, and Andrew Thostenson started their terms at the close of the meeting. Dean Herzfeld joined the Board in June 2004. Lori McKinnon is the new TPPC liaison. Win Hock and Bill Tozer will complete their terms on March 31, 2005.

### 2. C&T Plan Template – Current Status of Project

EPA is investigating moving the template to an EPA server. No modifications will occur until the move is finalized. Current grant guidance makes use of the template voluntary in FY 2004. In FY 2005, SLAs will be expected to use the template. EPA will ask the regions to pilot at least one state using the template in each region.

### 3. CTAG Issue Papers – Status and Next Steps

The board previously approved the following issue papers and authorized submission of the issue papers to SFIREG. These issue papers were also presented and discussed at

the 2003 North American Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop:

#### 50/50 Match

This issue paper proposes a change in FIFRA to replace the 50/50 C&T cooperative agreement match requirement with the traditional 85/15 match used in other FIFRA programs. Approved and received outside support.

#### Requiring Monitored, Written, Closed-Book Exams

This issue paper seeks to improve the competency of certified applicators by requiring all states to use monitored, written, closed-book examinations for certification of private and commercial pesticide applicators. Approved and received outside support.

#### Positive Identification for Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Purchases

This issue paper recommends that EPA develop guidelines and implement requirements for positive identification of all private and commercial applicators making face-to-face purchases of restricted use pesticides. This issue paper is designed to improve the level of security surrounding the purchase of RUPs by requiring positive identification in addition to the possession and presentation of a valid pesticide applicator certification credential. (This issue paper does not address telephone and Internet sales of RUPs.) Approved and received outside support.

#### Minimum Age Requirement for Certification

This issue paper recommends that EPA implement a minimum age requirement for certification as a requirement for approval of C&T plans. The issue paper was rewritten, in response to comments received at the 2003 North American Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop, to recommend 18 years as the minimum age for commercial applicators and 17 years as the minimum age for private applicators, unless states can verify that a 16 year old private applicator would not have access to agricultural chemicals classified as category 1 products. Once redrafted, CTAG will request comments.

### **4. Workgroup #2 - Pesticide Safety**

#### WPS Integration

The draft issues concerning integrating handler training into the certification program were presented to EPA staff who will develop a paper to gauge EPA management support for the concept before taking the proposals further.

#### Exam Administration & Security Procedures Manual

The board agreed that this is a very positive CTAG piece. EPA will use the printing contractor now working on the national core manual to help with formatting and printing this manual. Use of this manual will be linked to the use of the new national core exam so that EPA can have some assurance that states using the core exam have in place adequate exam security procedures to help protect EPA's investment in the core exam.

#### Exam Blueprints

A draft issue paper was proposed to address the burden that each state faces in

developing its own examination and training system for pesticide applicator category exams. An exam blueprint is an important tool that SLAs can use to develop the exam that they determine best meets their specific needs. CES can use the blueprint to develop companion training materials.

It was suggested that job analyses for the Aerial category and the Right-of-Way category might be good beginning points for this exercise. An appropriate work group will be established for this effort.

#### Subgroup to Improve Trainer Skills

There was a discussion of the status of work by this subgroup. It was mentioned that Mexican pesticide officials would like help in developing a C&T program. EPA will propose this as a NAFTA project and will draw on the work of this subgroup.

### **5. Workgroup #3 on Tiered Classification**

The Tiered Classification Workgroup completed their charge. The workgroup proposed a tiered system of classifying pesticides that would establish education and training requirements covering all occupational users of pesticides. A tiered classification system will be a critical element in CTAG's plan for the restructuring of the current certification and training program into a comprehensive pesticide worker safety program that covers all types of pesticide users, and incorporates appropriate education, training and examination components to reduce risks to pesticide applicators, other people and the environment.

The papers were presented to EPA staff who will develop a concept paper for EPA management before taking the proposal further.

### **6. Workgroup #4 – PSEP Long-term Funding**

CTAG committed, in August 2003, to establishing a new workgroup to develop a process for distributing Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) funds. However, since EPA and USDA announced that they and external stakeholders will conduct a national program review, part of which will focus on funding, the focus for this proposed workgroup will be revised depending on the scope and findings of the national program review.

### **7. Fumigation Management Plans**

EPA inquired about the status of work by the Oklahoma State extension service (Jim Criswell) on a phosphine fumigation manual which would address the new label requirements. The long overdue manual is expected to be available in June, 2004. New labels are now on the Degesch America web site.

Updated manuals and sample fumigation management plans will be needed by both private and commercial applicators.

## **8. Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003**

EPA distributed information on the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003 (PRIA.) The PRIA will provide no less than \$750,000 and no more than \$1,000,000 per year, for five years, to “enhance current scientific and regulatory activities related to worker protection.” In addition to contract and grant money, EPA will get new staff positions as a result of PRIA.

## **9. The Evolution of a CTAG Issue**

A draft of “CTAG Process for Issue Papers” was discussed. This paper details and standardizes the steps in the development of CTAG issue papers. The draft was approved by the board, posted on the CTAG web site and sent to the AAPCO, AAPSE, ASCPCRO, PSEP and TPPC listserves for review and comment. The final paper will be adopted at the August 2004 CTAG board meeting.

A standard format will be developed for CTAG issue papers. The board secretary will maintain a progress tracking system for CTAG issues and activities.

## **10. CTAG and Regional Meetings**

Each of the regional PSEP/C&T meetings this year will devote from one to two hours for discussion of CTAG issues and to receive feedback from participants. A standard slide set will be developed so that consistent presentations are given at each meeting. The slide set will include the CTAG process for issue papers as well as current workgroup activities.

## **11. CTAG Outreach – Building More Support Among Our Peers**

The board’s discussion led to agreement to take the following steps to improve CTAG communications with partners and stakeholders:

- Post all upcoming scheduled CTAG meetings on the web site.
- Post minutes, or a summary, of all CTAG meetings on the web site.
- Post all CTAG issue papers and other documents on the web site, and request comments within a specific time period.
- Notify AAPCO, ASCPCRO, AAPSE, PSEP and TPPC listserves of scheduled meetings, minutes, issue papers or other relevant documents and, when appropriate, request comments within a specific time period.
- Request comments and suggestions from AAPCO, ASCPCRO, AAPSE, PSEP and TPPC on relevant issues or topics that should be considered by CTAG.

## **12. CTAG August 2004 Board of Directors Meeting**

The board agreed to meet in Madison, WI, on August 3, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., and on August 4, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The co-chairs will solicit agenda items and prepare the agenda for the meeting. One suggested agenda topic is a report from EPA on the status of global harmonization.