



CTAG

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

CTAG Board of Directors November 2006 Meeting Summary Report to the AAPSE Board December 2006

Note from AAPSE Liaison to CTAG: Carol Ramsay's term on the CTAG Board will terminate prior to the next CTAG Board meeting and CTAG requests that AAPSE appoint a new AAPSE Liaison to CTAG. The current CTAG Board is listed at <http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag/board.html> as well as their terms

1. Operational Issues

Expiring Terms & New Members: The terms of Carol Ramsay, Past Co-Chair, Dean Herzfeld, and Kathy Dictor will expire on March 31, 2007. Roger Flashinski (WI-CES), Candace Bartholomew (CT-CES), Dave Duncan (CA-SLA) and Doug Jones (GA) will start their 3-year terms on April 1, 2007. CTAG will be voting for a new CTAG Vice-Chair in early 2007.

CTAG leadership terms were shortened: CTAG is reducing the term of service for the Past-Chair and Vice-Chair to one year only. The Past-Chair's one-year term will expire at the same time the Vice-Chair starts their one-year term. The CTAG Co-Chair will still serve for two years. Total term in a leadership role will not exceed 4 years.

2. EPA Updates

C&T / WPS Regulatory Change: Kevin reported on the activity of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC), PPDC Workgroup on Worker Safety Regulatory Change and the Worker Safety PREP Course. EPA anticipates new issue paper drafts will be circulated late Spring 2007, prior to the spring PPDC meeting. The date to publish the regulatory proposal has been changed to December 31, 2008.

PSEP Funding: Kevin reported EPA is working with USDA on a one-year IAG for FY 2007.

Accountability issues are being discussed. Jim Parochetti will report to EPA on the current PPRS data reports. Jim Jones, Director of OPP, made a commitment to the PPDC to host a discussion regarding funding with a wide network of stakeholders. AAPSE was asked to help facilitate the meeting.

Core Manual & Exam and Aerial Exam: Dick Herrett reported on the release of the core materials and the current project for a national aerial exam. Implementation was discussed in significant detail: state-specific information, lead time and print quality for printers, release timing compared to training season timing, engaging all those who may utilize the products to avoid duplication of efforts, marketing the products to the states to achieve buy-in prior to release of the products, and lastly expectations on the part of the subject matter experts involved in developing the products.

Globally Harmonized System (GHS): Candace Bartholomew, as an AAPSE member, participates on the GHS Committee and gave an update on a recent workshop on GHS. EPA recognizes the expense for implementation will be greater than initially expected. They anticipated implementation dates of 2010-2012, which included revisions to all product labels and training materials/exams. Candace will keep CTAG apprised of how this effort moves forward.

CPARD – Certification Plan and Reporting Database: CPARD will be permanently housed with the Computer Resources Unit at Washington State University. WSU is working with NASDA and EPA to upgrade the system and to add reporting functions. Several CTAG members will beta-test the upgraded web database.

Container and Containment Regulation Update: The final pesticide container & containment regulations were published on August 16, 2006. EPA is currently working on a how-to-comply manual, and a guide for the regulations at a glance is available on EPA's website (http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/container_requirements.pdf). One provision of the regulations is that if states cannot comply, they will lose primacy for their applicator certification program. EPA does not anticipate this becoming an issue for any state.

3. Conventional Reciprocity Update

Andrew will repackage the reciprocity documents that CTAG has been working on for the past several years. He will include an introduction to clarify the purpose of the document is a tool and not part of the regulatory change process.

4. Exam and Manual Development Workgroup Update

The workgroup circulated their drafts of both an issue paper and a model process document for consideration by the CTAG Board. CTAG plans to include final edits and comments in the document by late January and circulate the document to its partners (AAPSE, AAPCO, ASPCRO, EPA regions, TPPC) for their thoughts and input. It is CTAG's intent the documents set the stage for more collaborative efforts between exam and manual development and that the techniques discussed can be incorporated by states as they develop a better process over the years. Comments on the document will be discussed at the next board meeting.

5. Non-Traditional Funding Update

The board evaluated the current findings provided by Andrew Thostenson and decided to add a PR piece to the document to explain its purpose and then publicize the document via listserves and the CTAG web site. The intent is for the document to be dynamic and invite people to contribute new ideas.

6. CTAG Web Site

Carol will add a Useful Tools section to the web site to better direct people to the materials developed as tools. With Carol departing the Board, a new web site manager was recruited, Roger Flashinski. Roger will pass along to Carol any materials that need to be added to the CTAG web site.

7. Continued Competency Workgroup

The workgroup provided a report on the survey conducted on how and why states manage their recertification programs, looking for strengths and weaknesses, and even suggestions for changes that coming from a national perspective could be beneficial. The Board encouraged the workgroup to continue its fact-finding and assess whether there are possible recommendations to make to EPA regarding minimal national standards for recertification. The board will be updated by January 31.

8. 2007 North American Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop

Planning has begun for the 2007 North American Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop to be held in Portland, Maine August 21-23, 2007. Traditionally CTAG issues (exam development, etc) have been part of the agenda, so the Board considered potential agenda topics.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held during the week of June 4-8, 2007 in Chicago, Illinois.