



CTAG

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

CTAG Board of Directors November 2007 Meeting Summary Report to AAPSE

1. Operational Issues

Expiring Terms & New Members. Dan Wixted, CES NY, was elected to fill the remaining term of Roger Flashinski who has accepted the Vice-Chair position. Nominations will be sought for 1 SLA and 1 CES to fill two positions whose terms are expiring March 31, 2008: Tim Drake, SLA SC, and Kerry Hoffman-Richards, CES PA. [Note: since the last Board meeting, Paul Liemandt, SLA MN, announced his resignation from the Board so a second SLA nomination will also be sought].

Board Expansion. When CTAG was created, it was the intent to add industry representatives at a later date. The Board discussed whether this is still a valid idea and whether now would be a good time to expand. Being there are many other venues for industry to support and participate in C&T programs, the Board decided not to explore this option further at this time.

CTAG Charter. The Charter is being revised to reflect the shortened term for the Vice-Chair and Past-Chair, and clarify other issues relating to term limits.

CTAG Website. The Board discussed the possibility of having the website hosted on its own domain, relieving a specific person or institution from this responsibility. It also was discussed to make the CTAG website a gateway to other C&T-related resources, linking to NASDAF projects, EPA documents, and websites of AAPCO, AAPSE, ASPCRO, PSP, and the states.

2. EPA Updates

C&TWPS Regulatory Changes. EPA is currently addressing comments from the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) and other stakeholders as it prepares more detail to the proposed options. PPDC also is preparing their close-out report with its recommendations; this report is expected in May 2008.

Regulatory Change Cost Analysis. EPA is working on an economic analysis in implementing the proposed C&T/WPS regulatory changes. They also will convene a panel of small businesses affected by the proposals to determine the specific burdens. These two processes will likely delay the timeframe for publishing the regulatory changes.

PSEP Funding. The renewal of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA II) includes new funding of \$500,000 for pesticide safety education in each fiscal year of 2008 through 2012. PRIA funds are in addition to the pass-through funds. Congress was not specific in how the PRIA funds to support PSEP should be allocated, either through the existing EPA/USDA IAG formula or through a competitive grant program. The Board discussed pros and cons with either approach to fund distribution.

CPARD – Certification Plan and Reporting Database. The new version, which offers the capability to run a wider variety of reports, should go live in December 2007. Enhancements to the next version is already in progress, and several CTAG members have volunteered to assist EPA.

3. Workgroup Updates

Formula Funding. In light of the new PRIA II funds, the Board decided it might be best to review the existing formulas. Such a review was attempted several years ago by USDA, but never fully accomplished. Thus, the Board formed two workgroups to review formula funding: one for PSEP, and another for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG).

Continued Competency. An updated draft was presented, but the Board requested more clarification between workshops and CEUs. When completed, it will be used to promote further discussion among states and for information purposes only, and not as a CTAG issue paper or position.

Recertification Best Practices. In conjunction with the continued competency document, the Board felt it would be beneficial to states to have a toolbox of best practices for carrying out recertification. These practices could deal with such items as auditing attendance, approving courses/speakers, tracking applicators, and feedback. A workgroup was formed and, depending on interest, it may be split into two subgroups: one dealing with workshops, and the other with CEU programs.

4. Classification of Rodenticides.

With the potential classification of many rodenticides to restricted-use, industry has requested that EPA consider implementing product-specific certification rather than expanding certification in existing categories. The Board unanimously recommended that EPA not pursue limited-use certifications, and will endorse any letter sent by AAPSE, ASPCRO, or AAPCO who also are not in favor of limited-use certifications.

5. Federal Agency Certification Plans.

EPA's Office of General Council is still working on some issues regarding state's rights and federal preemption of state plans. Federal agencies can develop their own certification plans but there is no requirement for states to accept federal agency plans. The Board recommended that EPA develop a guidance/policy document for states to review.

6. National Program Management Guidance.

Under this guidance, negotiated between EPA headquarters and the Regions on a 3-year basis, each Region is required to fund at least one special project per year for both worker protection and pesticide applicator safety. Being that this is the first year of implementation, no specific guidance was provided to Regions; however, more specific criteria will be developed for future years.

7. Under the Direct Supervision Survey.

The Board is intending to send out a survey to seek information on how states are handling direct supervision within their state. The information will be used to make recommendations to EPA on requirements that should be adopted at the federal level, and to develop a best practices document. The survey will be distributed through the listserves.

8. 2009 C&T Workshop.

The next C&T North American Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop will be held August 9 -15, 2009 at Charleston, SC. Tim Drake will host the Workshop, and he is already making plans for possible tours (tea and rice plantations, nurseries, structural treatment sites).

9. Next Board Meeting.

The next CTAG Board meeting is scheduled for June 10-11, 2008. Location to be determined.