

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ▼**  
**HUMAN RESOURCES ENTERPRISE**  
**PESTICIDE INVESTIGATOR**

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**DEFINITION**

Investigates the use and alleged misuse of pesticides, conducts written examinations for pesticide certification, and reviews dealers' records in the sale of pesticides; performs related work as required.

**The Work Examples and Competencies listed are for illustrative purposes only and not intended to be the primary basis for position classification decisions.**

**WORK EXAMPLES**

Collects information and samples for analysis in the investigation of alleged pesticide incidents to determine if a pesticide has been misused.

Inspects property and plants allegedly damaged from the use of pesticides to determine the cause and extent of damage.

Prepares investigative reports and related documents in order to document findings and report results to the supervisor of the Pesticide Section.

Inspects the records of pesticide applicators to determine if pesticides are being used in conformance with the laws and regulations by reviewing the type of pesticides used, when they were used, and how they were used.

Monitors the examination process for certification of commercial and public pesticide applicators and private pesticide applicators by handing out test materials, giving oral instructions, etc.

Reviews the pesticide applicator's certified classification to determine if the applicator is authorized to use "restricted use pesticides."

Reviews pesticide dealers' records of sales and distribution of "restricted use pesticides" to determine if these hazardous products have been distributed only to certified applicators.

**COMPETENCIES REQUIRED**

Knowledge of agricultural chemical products used as pesticides.

Knowledge of accepted uses of pesticides.

Knowledge of the methods and procedures used in the production, storage and sale of chemical pesticides.

Knowledge of state and federal laws and regulations governing the manufacture, processing, storage, sale and use of pesticides.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the public in order to facilitate investigations.

Ability to gather and analyze pertinent data in investigations.

Ability to interpret and apply state and federal regulations relating to the use, sale and production of pesticides.

Displays high standards of ethical conduct. Refrains from dishonest behavior.

Works and communicates with all clients and customers providing polite, quality professional service.

Displays a high level of initiative, effort, attention to detail and commitment by completing assignments efficiently with minimal supervision.

Follows policy, cooperates with supervisors and aligns behavior with the goals of the organization.

Fosters and facilitates cooperation, pride, trust, group identity and team spirit throughout the organization.

Exchanges information with individuals or groups effectively by listening and responding appropriately.

#### **EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy, Entomology, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, or other agricultural sciences that deal with the care of agricultural plants and animals;

OR

one year of full-time experience in the manufacture, storage, sale and/or use of chemical pesticides for each year of the required education;

OR

employees with current continuous experience in the state executive branch that includes eighteen months of full-time work as an Agricultural Products Inspector.

#### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENT**

Must be able to successfully complete the requirements for certification as a pesticide applicator within six months of employment and must obtain EPA credentials within 12 months of employment.

#### **NOTE**

Applicants for these positions must be able to obtain a valid driver's license; travel is required.

Effective Date: 04/10 DDF