



COMMISSIONER TODD STAPLES

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Convenience Testing for Pesticide Applicators

Texas Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Pesticide Program

Introduction

- ❖ TDA contracted with PSI Services (PSI) to administer Ag pesticide exams
- ❖ Same vendor that administers exams for structural pest control
- ❖ Structural has administered over 2,500 exams in the last year – very few issues
- ❖ TDA resources will be utilized more efficiently
- ❖ Services to customers is expanded to meet their needs and schedules

Partnership = Successful Implementation

- ∞ Collaboration between TDA and AgriLife is paramount to success



What stays the same...

- ∞ TDA staff will continue conventional testing through May
 - TDA regional offices, and
 - in locations where exams were previously scheduled.
- ∞ May 15 is the target date for pesticide applicator licensing forms to be available on the TDA website.
- ∞ Applicants shall continue to contact AgriLife for study materials and pesticide training.

The target date to begin testing with PSI is
June 1, 2014.



General Info on PSI

- ☞ Have provided credentialing and testing services
 - To state, federal, private and professional associations
- ☞ Has 65 years of experience
- ☞ Can provide exam opportunities in other states
- ☞ Will provide 22 locations in Texas
- ☞ Available 5 days per week
 - Some Saturdays

- ☞ Registering for an exam is available 24/7 by website
- ☞ Phone registration is available M-F 6:30 am-7:00 pm and Saturday 10:00am – 4:00 pm

22 New Testing Locations/17 cities

- ☞ Abilene
- ☞ Amarillo
- ☞ Arlington
- ☞ Austin (2 sites)
- ☞ Corpus Christi
- ☞ Dallas
- ☞ Richardson
- ☞ El Paso
- ☞ Fort Worth
- ☞ Harlingen
- ☞ Houston (4 sites)
- ☞ Lubbock
- ☞ McAllen
- ☞ Midland
- ☞ San Antonio (2 sites)
- ☞ Tyler
- ☞ Waco

PSI Website



PSI Exams Online

[Home](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [PSI Bookstore](#)



Welcome to PSI Exams online

Discover an easy to use, paperless, and interactive approach to expedite your examination process.

Find Information or Download Candidate Information Bulletin





We offer a variety of services for Real Estate, Insurance, Construction, Barber, Cosmetology and other professional licenses and certifications.

To Find Information or Download a Candidate Information Bulletin, Click on one of the Categories Below:

- [Certification/Professional Associations](#)
- [Government/State Licensing Agencies](#)
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More PSI Services

- » **Buy Books Online**
To buy books, Reference materials & more, visit [Online Book Store](#)
- » **Online Practice Test**
Our practice tests offers detailed feedback, instant online scoring and prescriptive score reports. [Click here](#) to take an online practice test.
- » **PSI Learning Academy** 
Here you will find a wealth of learning materials including online courses for pre-licensure/certification and continuing education offerings. To access [Click here](#)
- » **PSI Continuing Education Services**
To access services for continuing education, [Click here](#)
- » **Testing with PSI Internationally** 
[Click here](#) to learn about PSI's International Network of Exam Locations

Check Available Appointment Dates Before You Register

[Click here](#) to check for available appointment times and locations before you register and provide payment.

PSI News

EXAMINATION SITE CLOSING FOR AN EMERGENCY: In the event that severe weather or another emergency forces the closure of an examination site on a scheduled examination date, your examination will be rescheduled. PSI personnel will attempt to contact you in this situation. However, you may check the status of your examination schedule by calling (800) 733-9267. Every effort will be made to reschedule your examination at a convenient time as soon as possible.

[Testrac Candidates](#) [CLICK HERE](#) to

New Users

- You can:
- » [Create an account](#)
 - » [Register for an examination](#)
 - » [Schedule an examination](#)

Returning Users

Sign in

Email Address:

Password:

Start in:

Remember me

[\[Forgot Password? \]](#)

[\[Update email address \]](#)

If you do not have an account, please click the below link.

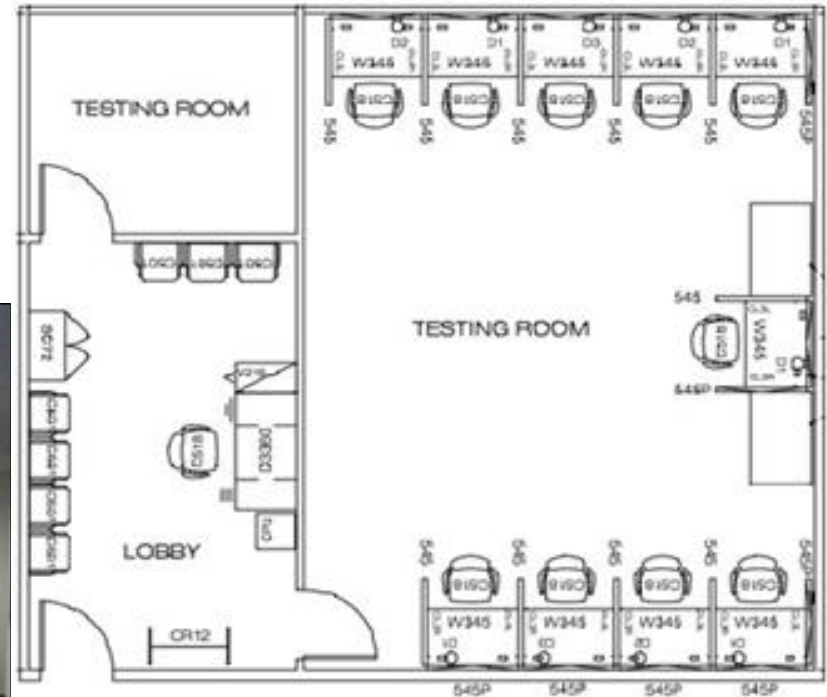
[\[Create an Account \]](#)

View the Examination Tutorial

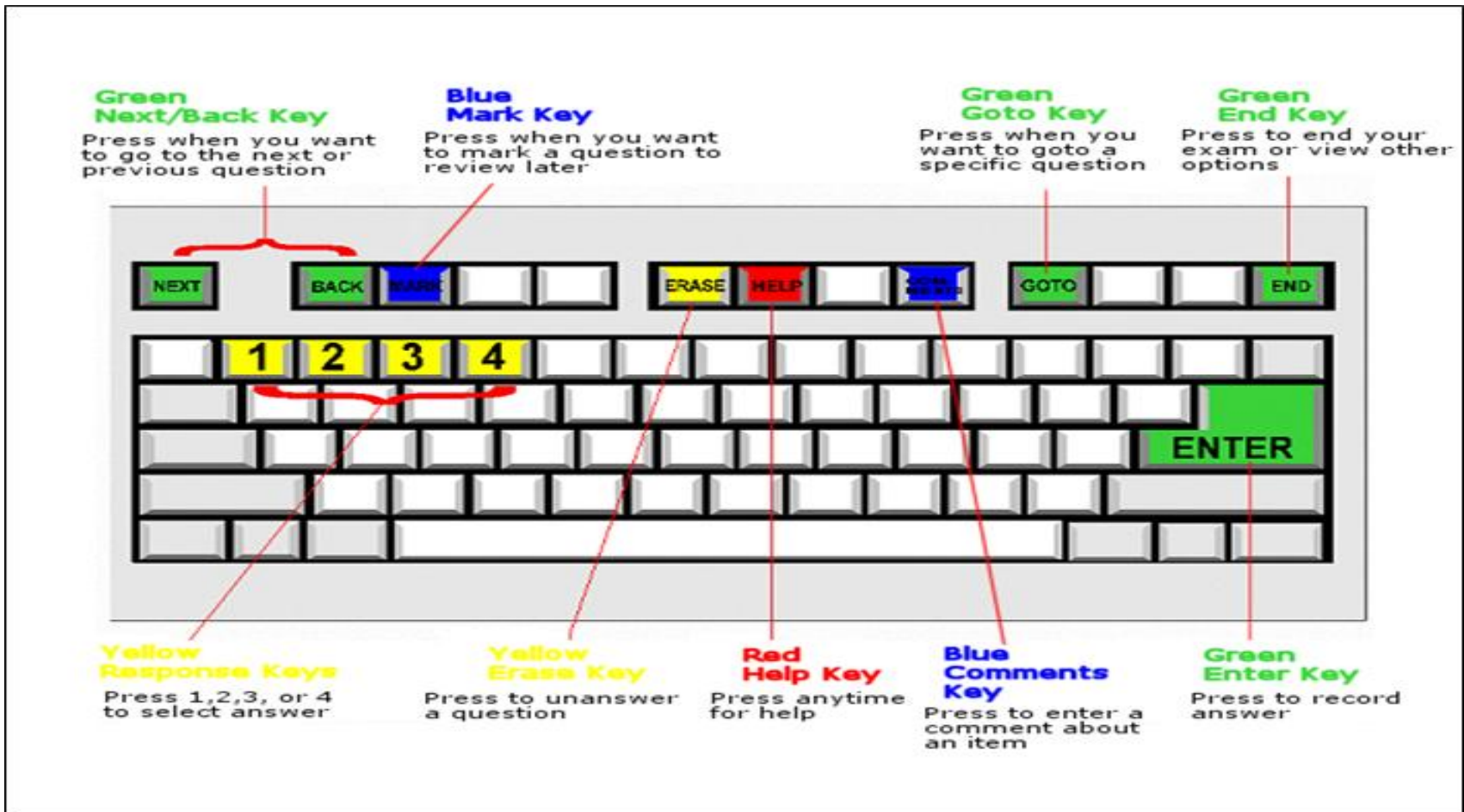
[Click here](#) to view the PSI Examination Tutorial.

Typical PSI Testing Center Setup

- ∞ Individual testing space
- ∞ Proctored by onsite personnel
- ∞ Quiet, comfortable & secure



Computers Simplified



Trial Exam Questions

- ⌘ Time is allowed to get used to the computer. Allows learning of how to start and stop the exam, answer and correct questions, and get comfortable with the process

The screenshot shows a window titled "Test: SAMPLE TEST (Total Portions : 1)". The window has a menu bar with "Calculator", "Mark", "Comments", "Goto", "Help", and "End". Below the menu bar is a status bar with "Question: 3 of 40", "Answered: 2", "Unanswered: 1", "Marked: 0", "View: All", and "Time Left(Min): 359". The main content area displays a question:

3. **A broker inspects a house before listing it and notices water stains on some walls. The broker informs the owners that the leak must be disclosed, but they insist that prospective buyers not be told about the leak. What should the broker do?**

(Choose from the following options)

- 1. List and market the house the way the sellers want.
- 2. List the house "as is."
- 3. List the house after the sellers paint the walls.
- 4. Decline the listing.

At the bottom of the window, there are two buttons: "<< Back" and "Next >>".

Examinees Need to Know

- ☞ **BE ON TIME – if late, fees are forfeited and must reschedule**
- ☞ **LEAVE PERSONAL ITEMS IN VEHICLE OR HOME: No personal items, including cell phones, purses, bags, backpacks, books, notes, etc. are allowed in testing area.**

Process for Private Applicators



Step 1

- ☞ **Attend a Private Pesticide Applicator training session FIRST.**
- ☞ **Contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to locate a training session and obtain study materials at: www.aes.tamu.edu**
- ☞ **Training is valid for up to 5 years or until license is issued- whichever comes first.**

Step 2

- ☞ Upon completion of the training, AgriLife will give both the white copy (original) and the yellow copy of the Training Verification form (D-1411) to the trainee.

AgriLife keeps the pink copy (no change)

Trainee keeps the yellow copy for their records

- ☞ The white copy (original) will go to TDA with the completed Private Pesticide Applicator license application form.

Step 3

- ∞ Applicator obtains a hard copy of the Private Pesticide Applicator license application form (Form PA-400P) from TDA (website, phone, or fax).
 - Texasagriculture.gov
 - 1-800-TELL-TDA
 - (888) 216-9865 fax

- ∞ AgriLife may consider providing hard copies of this form at their training sessions as a service to our customers.

Step 4

∞ Applicator submits:

- completed Private Pesticide Applicator application form,
- license fee of \$60, and
- white (original) copy of the Training Verification form to TDA for processing.

∞ If the license information, fees, or the Training Verification form is not provided or is insufficient, TDA will send a pending letter to the applicant to obtain the missing information. The application is in a PENDING status until information is provided.

Step 5

- ∞ When the license application is accepted,
 - Applicant will receive a letter in the mail with their **Account Number**.
- ∞ This Account Number is the number the applicator will use to register and schedule the Private applicator exam with PSI.
- ∞ **IF** an email is provided, PSI will send an email to the applicant inform them of their eligibility to test. (this step will save several days)

EXAMPLE OF PSI EMAIL NOTIFICATION

You have been successfully registered for the TX Private Pesticide Applicator examination.

Please [click here](#) to schedule your examination in the PSI System.

Follow the system prompts to schedule your exam.

This process does NOT need the Account Number to access as it will automatically link the applicator to PSI.

Step 6

- ∞ The applicant then contacts PSI (website or phone) to schedule their exam(s).
 - Registers on PSI website
 - Selects exam
 - Selects exam location and time
 - Pays examination fee (if applicable)
- ∞ Private applicator exam is free for the first attempt.
- ∞ If the applicant fails the first attempt, the second (or subsequent) attempts will require a payment of \$52.00 each to PSI.
 - There is a 24 hour waiting period to take a repeat exam.

scheduling your examination with PSI

g your examination with PSI.

etails of your scheduled examination:

Technician Exams

ed: TX Termite Technician

2, 2014

9:00 AM (hh:mm)

M6730551

LINGTON

8 East Randol Mill Road

2 Arlington Texas 76011

From Hwy 183, take Industrial South. Turn left on Lamar Blvd. Turn right on Ball Park. Turn left on Randol Mill Road, to 2008 Randol Mill Road. The site is one block
Collins (Hwy 157) exit South. Turn left on Randol Mill Road.

bring to the Test Center:

ation

your PSI examination fee is NON-REFUNDABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE.

st center 30 minutes prior to your examination start time.

allowed into the testing center. PSI does not provide lockers and will not be responsible for any personal belongings. You are strongly advised to leave these at

invalid, you will not be able to take the examination as scheduled, and you will forfeit your examination fee, if you:

ointment 2 days before the scheduled examination date.

examination appointment;

tion start time.

identification when you arrive for the examination.

te Information Bulletin available at <http://www.psiexams.com> for complete information regarding your examination,

Step 7

∞ Upon completion of the exam, the testing center will provide immediate exam results:

- If 70% or over=pass. Only the score will be provided.
- Fail = <70%. A summary of the exam will be provided to identify the person's performance in specific topic areas.

Topic	# Questions	# Correct
Chemical characteristics	10	6
Calibrations & Calculations	8	7

SAMPLE EXAM SUMMARY SHEET

PSI SERVICES LLC



JOHN MILLER
729 NORTHEAST 5TH #202
BEAUFORT, TX 75555

TDA NUMBER: XXXXXXXXX

EXAM DATE: 5/15/2012

EXAM NAME: <Examination Name>

EXAM RESULT: FAIL

The following is an analysis of your examination:

Topic	# Questions	# Correct
Laws and Regulations	20	10
Properties	10	5
Basics	5	1
Policies	5	1
RESULT *** FAIL ***	40	16 (40.0%)

To achieve a passing score on this examination you must have had XX correct answers.

Step 8

- ☞ PSI will send exam scores to TDA nightly.
- ☞ If all licensing criteria are met, TDA will issue the Private Pesticide Applicator license.



Recertification Exam

- ⌘ Recertification Exam is available
 - ⌘ Applicant will need to contact TDA – AUSTIN
 - ⌘ TDA will work with PSI to authorize testing
 - ⌘ \$50.00 first attempt (no change)
 - ⌘ \$52.00 subsequent attempts
- ⌘ Further discussion may be needed to evaluate necessity of this process.

Commercial/Non-Commercial and Non-Commercial Political Subdivision Applicators



General Information Comm/Non-Comm

- ∞ No pre-license training is required.
- ∞ The Laws & Regulations and General exams are consolidated into one exam called the GENERAL STANDARDS exam (100 questions total).
- ∞ Most category exams are 50 questions.
- ∞ If a commercial, non-commercial, or non-commercial political applicant passes the general and fails the category exam or vice versa, the passing exam score is valid for 1 year. A license will not be issued unless BOTH the general standards and at least 1 category exam are passed.

CATEGORY SPECIFICS

- ∞ There is no category exam fee for non-commercial political applicants if they provide written documentation that the applicant is employed by a political entity (city, county, etc.) and applications will be made for that political entity.

Proposed Changes to Categories

- ∞ Category names will be changed and slight differences
- ∞ These category names will be used for PSI exams
 - NO more CHEMIGATION or ANTI-FOULING PAINT
 - 1C Weed & Brush Control in Range and Pastures is now **PASTURE AND RANGELAND**
 - 1D Predatory Animal is now **VERTEBRATE PEST**
 - 3A is now for **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ONLY**
 - 3B is for **NURSERY PLANT PRODUCTION**
 - 5. **RIGHT OF WAY** is now **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**
 - 7. **Demonstration & Research** will NOT require additional categories
 - **Comprehensive for all sites where Demo & Research is conducted**

Categories / #questions / Time Allowance

<input type="checkbox"/> General Standards (100 questions/2 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Maintenance (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private (100 questions/2 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Protection Collar (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Recertification (150 questions/2.5 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> M-44 Device (50 questions/ 1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Plant Production (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Health (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture & Rangeland (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Pest (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health (Vector) (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Citrus Pest (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory Pest Control (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration & Research (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed Treatment (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Storage & Fumigation (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Fumigation (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Crop (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Management (50 questions/1.25 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Pest (50 questions/1.25 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vertebrate Pest Control (25 questions/1.00 hours)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit, Nut, Vegetable Control (50 questions/ 1.25 hours)	

Step 1 & 2

- ☞ Applicant contacts Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for the appropriate pesticide examination study manuals at www.aes.tamu.edu or (979) 845-1099

- ☞ Applicant completes a Commercial/Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator application and submits the license fee to TDA.
 - Commercial Pesticide Applicator License Fee = \$180/year
 - Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator License Fee = \$120/year
 - Non-Commercial Political Subdivision Pesticide Applicator License Fee = \$12/year

Steps 3 & 4

- ☞ Submit the completed applicator license application form and license fee to TDA.
 - If the license information or fee is insufficient, TDA will send a pending letter to the applicant to obtain the missing information. The application is in a PENDING status until information is provided.
- ☞ When the license application is processed, TDA will send the applicant a letter in the mail with their **Account Number**. This **Account Number** will be the number the applicator will use to register and schedule their exam(s) with PSI.
- ☞ **IF** an email is provided, PSI will send an email to the applicant to inform them of their eligibility to test. (this step will save several days)

Step 5

- ☞ Applicant contacts PSI (website or phone) to register and schedule their exam(s).
 - The General Standards applicator exam is free for the first attempt.
 - The commercial/non-commercial applicant will pay \$24.00 category fee for the initial attempt of each category exam.
 - The non-commercial political-subdivision applicant is not charged a category fee.
 - If the applicant fails the first attempt of the General Standards or a category exam, the additional attempts will require a payment of \$52.00 each to PSI.
 - There is a 24 hour waiting period to take a repeat exam.

Step 6

☞ Upon completion of the exam, the testing center will provide immediate exam results:

- If 70% or over=pass. Only the score will be provided.
- Fail = <70%. A summary of the exam will be provided to identify the person's performance in specific topic areas.

Topic	# Questions	# Correct
Chemical characteristics	10	6
Calibrations & Calculations	8	7

Step 7

- PSI will send exam scores to TDA nightly. If all licensing criteria are met, TDA will issue the pesticide applicator license.
- If the commercial/non-commercial/non-commercial political applicator is adding a category to an already existing license, they will not receive a revised license, unless they contact TDA to reissue their license.
 - The category will be printed on the license once it is renewed.

General Information

- ☞ If the applicant has any questions about licensing or categories, they should contact TDA.
- ☞ **PSI STAFF CANNOT PROVIDE LICENSING ADVICE OR INFORMATION.**

Consistent Messaging is Vital to Success

- ∞ Increased opportunities for our customers to take exams
 - At a time that works for them
 - Available more days and times than were available
 - Exam results feedback to learn from (if they fail)
- ∞ AgriLife Extension has the community connections and contacts to make this work
- ∞ Training provided by AgriLife remains the foundation of quality and consistent pesticide education
- ∞ Results are realized in knowledgeable, responsible and compliant pesticide applicators.

TDA Pesticide Program Contacts

☞ Randy Rivera

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- 512-463-7717

☞ Janet Fults

- Janet.Fults@TexasAgriculture.gov
- 512-463-8327

☞ Perry Cervantes

- Perry.Cervantes@TexasAgriculture.gov
- 512-463-7692

QUESTIONS??

