It’s Time To Check Your Credits!

Time to check your transcript to determine your status for meeting recertification requirements before June 30, 2015 deadline. The time you spend checking your Continuing Certification Units (CCU) status now will give you more options in terms of CCU approved courses available for you to take to meet your recertification requirements. IF you wait to the last minute the courses available to you will be limited in comparison to what is available now! The following web addresses list upcoming seminars and workshops offering CCU approved courses and available ON-LINE courses; http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/documents/ScheduledWorkshops2014-2015.pdf = seminars & workshops. http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/documents/On-DemandWorkshops14-15.pdf = on-line courses.

2015 Pest Control Technician School (PCT) was well attended!

This past PCT School was busy and crowded thanks to moderate temperatures and favorable road conditions. The unofficial tally of attendees to the school topped 800 which is a tremendous improvement over 2014 numbers. Our state inspectors scanned attendees' badges at each seminar during the school and reported over 3000 CCU credits were earned by attendees. The number of badges scanned is great news in our world because it means applicators are capitalizing on the opportunity the PCT School was designed to provide them in the way of earning CCU credits towards their recertification requirements. In this humble state employee's opinion "The Annual NCPMA PCT School" offers a great opportunity for certified & licensed Pest Management Professionals (PMP's) to earn multiple CCU's in one place at one time while making new contacts & seeing old ones in this industry. Mark your calendars now for January 2016 PCT School and be sure to preregister later this year.

Welcome Aboard!

The structural Pest Control section welcomes two new members to our team; Ryan Gentes and Jennifer Johnston. Ryan is our Information Technology Programmer and Jennifer is the Information Processing Manager in our Licensing & Certification Unit. We benefitted greatly from Ryan and Jennifer's expertise at the 2015 PCT School this past January as the task of downloading data from the scanners was accomplished with relative ease. Our inspectors scanned each individual attending the seminars at the school and downloading this mountain of names and L-type and File numbers (over 3000 seperate entries) into our licensing/recertification program can be challenging. The task was completed within one week and no glitches occurred due largely to the technical expertise of our new teammates. Thanks Ryan & Jennifer!
Structural Pest Control renewals will be mailed by May 1, 2015 for the 2015-2016 licensing year. When you receive your renewal package, please review the following: Correct spelling of names, correct address (es) – please include your physical address as well as your mailing address, correct phone numbers. If there are errors, please make legible corrections on the individual forms. If you are missing a form please contact Jennifer Johnston via email @Jennifer.johnston@ncagr.gov. If you need additional forms, please go to our website; http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/forms/index.htm to find the correct form(s) you are missing.

The cost to renew cards is $40.00 for each Registered Technician Card, $50.00 for each Certified Applicator Card and $200.00 for each Licensee Card for a single phase (P, W, or F) and an additional $75.00 for each additional licensing phase. All cards expire on the 30th of June, annually so send in your renewals by this deadline. The Division accepts payment in the form of check or money order. Please remember, branch office registration expires June 30th, and must be renewed as well. FEES FOR CARDS ARE NOT PRORATED.

Your renewal applications may be denied and returned for the following reasons; Expired Liability Insurance Certificate. A new certificate must be on file at the Structural Pest Control Office. The expiration date must be beyond July 1, 2015. The insurance expire date is printed on the renewal application. Check the status of your license and new insurance expiration at http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/index.htm.

Incomplete CCU’s – All continuing education must be completed for 2015 before renewals are received and processed. Check your employee’s CCU status at: http://www.ncagr.gov/aspzine/str-pest/Recert/RTsearch.asp;* and Incorrect Payment – Payment must be in the exact amount required. No Exceptions.

If you did not receive your recertification transcripts and require a copy, please contact your Structural Pest Control Representative. Companies A-J contact Tinesha McNeil at Tinesha.mcneil@ncagr.gov, Annette Locklear at Annette.locklear@ncagr.gov for Companies K-Z and Bruce Terminix.

If you did not receive your recertification transcripts and require a copy, please contact your Structural Pest Control Representative. Companies A-J contact Tinesha McNeil at Tinesha.mcneil@ncagr.gov, Annette Locklear at Annette.locklear@ncagr.gov for Companies K-Z and Bruce Terminix.

Please keep your transcript for your future reference. The Division currently has over 4,000 people on our recertification list; thus it is very difficult to assist callers who ask for this information verbally.

There are no Branch Office forms in the renewal package. If you operate a Branch Office you are required annually to notify the Division of the address of each branch and individuals assigned to it. This is done on the Branch Office Registration forms, http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/forms/Branch_Office.pdf.

NC Structural Pest Control Settlement Agreement
Approved at October 30, 2014 SPC Committee Meeting

- Michael Howard of B&G Exterminating Co. in Winston-Salem agreed to pay $1200.00 for filing an inaccurate and incomplete wood-destroying-insect report; failure to record a moisture level of greater than 20 percent before performing an application for the control of wood-decay fungi; failure to trench the soil in the crawl space and to drill and treat slabs adjacent to the foundation walls; and for not providing an explanation of items waivered on the Waiver Form.

- Gary H. Ward of Bugg Busters in Lincolnton agreed to pay $800.00 for allowing his liability insurance to expire. Ward's insurance expired on Aug. 26, 2013 and was not renewed until Sept. 30, 2013. Bugg Busters performed 501 household pest control services and 39 wood destroying organism services during the lapse in renewal of his liability insurance.

- Jorge Rivero, president of El Club Mexicano in Asheboro agreed to pay $10,000.00 for the misuse of Raid Concentrated Deep Reach Fogger, TAT Concentrated Fogger and fumigant Fumiteco 56 and for not being a certified or licensed pesticide applicator. All three pesticides were released in a food packaging facility after work. The building reopened three days later and workers became ill when they entered the building. The Raid and TAT foggers are labeled for use in commercial food/feed establishments. Fumiteco 56 (aluminum phosphide) can only be used by a certified or licensed applicator.

- Ansel Sherlock of Hampstead agreed to pay $400.00 for improper storage of pesticides. Sherlock was working as a technician performing structural pest control under Jason Burkhart's structural pest control license. Sherlock stored Contrac All-Weather Blox, First Strike Soft Bait and Borid Insecticide outside. The label for these pesticides states to store them in a cool dry place inaccessible to children and pets.

- In a related settlement, Jason Burkhart of Cary, who held a structural pest control license under his business TruTech in Charlotte, agreed to pay $2000.00 for several violations. These included failure to provide an employee with 24 hours of training before they mixed and applied pesticides; failure to obtain Registered Technician Cards within 75 days for three employees; failure to make available all required structural pest records during regular business hours at the Charlotte office; failure to submit names of recently hired employees to the Structural Pest Control Section; and for the failure of a technician to have a copy of the label for each pesticide being used; failing to maintain adequate spill control on service vehicle and failure to mark rodent bait with the signal word, such as danger, warning or caution, from the label.
RALEIGH LICENSE EXAM LOCATION

The monthly license/certification exams are administered at the Gov. James B. Martin Building which is located at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The physical address for the fairgrounds is 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, N.C. The most convenient entrance to find this building is located off of Trinity Road through Gate 9. From Blue Ridge Road, turn onto Trinity Road and Gate 9 will be your first entrance to the fairgrounds on your left. After Entering Gate 9, the Gov. James B. Martin Building will be the first building on your right.

RT Schools, Exam Dates and Locations

MARCH

March 3, 2015
License & Certification Exam – 9:30 am
Gov. James G. Martin Building
NC State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100

March 4, 2015
RT School – 8:30 am
NCDA & CS L.Y. Ballentine Building
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100

March 31, 2015
Certification Exam Only – 10:00 am
Burke County Co-Operative Extension Center
130 Ammons Drive
Morganton, NC
(828) 439-4460

April 7, 2015
License & certification exam – 9:30 am
Gov. James G. Martin Building
NC State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100

April 8, 2015
RT School – 8:30 am
NCDA & CS L.Y. Ballentine Building
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100

APRIL

April 22, 2015
Certification Exam Only – 10:00 am
New Hanover County Co-Operative Extension Center
6206 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC
(910-798-7660)

April 23, 2015
RT School – 8:30 am
Burke County Co-Operative Extension Center
130 Ammons Drive, Suite 2
Morganton, NC
(828) 439-4460

MAY

May 5, 2015
License & certification exam – 9:30 am
Gov. James G. Martin Building
NC State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC
(919) 733-6100

May 6, 2015
RT School – 8:30 am
NCDA & CS L.Y. Ballentine Building
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919)733-6100

May 6, 2015
Certification Exam Only – 1:00 pm In association with the NCSU Pesticide School
Forsyth County Co-Operative Extension Center
1450 Fairchild Road
Winston-Salem, NC
(336) 703-2850

JUNE

June 2, 2015
License & Certification Exam – 9:30 am
Gov. James G. Martin Building
NC State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100

June 3, 2015
RT School – 8:30 am
NCDA & CS L.Y. Ballentine Building
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 28607
(919) 733-6100

June 17, 2015
RT School – 8:30 am
Cabarrus County Co-Operative Extension Center
715 Cabarrus Avenue-West
Concord, NC
(704) 920-3310
Fun Facts about bugs……

- House flies find sugar with their feet, which are 10 million times more sensitive than human tongues.
- Mexican Jumping Beans, sometimes sold commercially, actually have a caterpillar of a bean moth inside.
- Wasps feeding on fermenting juice have been known to get “drunk” and pass out. I saw a lot of WASPS acting that way in my college days.
- A particular Hawk Moth caterpillar from Brazil, when alarmed, raises its head and inflates its thorax, causing it to look like the head of a snake. This behavioral trait reminds me of some public figures who when questioned about their public comments, raise their heads, inflate their thorax, lie about the meaning of their words, causing them to look like a horse’s ______.
- Ticks can grow from the size of a grain of rice to the size of a marble. My wife will attest to the fact that this phenomenon of enlarging body shape is evident in my physique from when we were first married to the present day.
- Out of 4000 known species of cockroaches only 20 types are classified as pests.
- The exoskeleton of a scorpion, made of chitin, reflects ultraviolet rays and will glow pink or green under the moonlight or a black light. Fossilized scorpions still glow under ultraviolet after 300 million years.
- Spanish flies are not flies and do not make good aphrodisiacs. They are beetles and the only thing they produce is a toxic chemical called cantharidin that is recommended for little more than the treatment of warts.
- Beetles are one of the most popular pets in Japan and can be bought in many department stores.

These fun facts about bugs were taken from Information Sheet Number 177, Department of Systematic Biology, Entomology Section, National Museum of Natural History, as well as Coolbug, LLC.
Licensees’ Renewal of Liability Insurance

The North Carolina Structural Pest Control Law requires all licensees to provide evidence of their financial ability to compensate persons who suffer harm from the use or application of pesticides. Licensees must show that they have adequate means to provide that compensation by having liability insurance or other means acceptable to the Committee.” (N.C. Gen. Stat § 106-65.37). The corresponding rule issued by the Structural Pest Control Committee, 02 NCAC 34.0902(b), establishes minimum coverage amounts for liability insurance policies:

(1) Single limit
   Property Damage $100,000 Each Occurrence
   Bodily Injury $300,000 Each Occurrence

(2) Combined single limit $300,000 Each Occurrence

Licensees are required to submit proof that they have adequate insurance in the form of a Certificate of Insurance to the Division. The Division cannot issue, reissue or renew a license until it has received a Certificate of Insurance from the licensee.

Only liability insurance policies issued to companies licensed, or otherwise approved to do business in North Carolina, by the NC Department of Insurance satisfy these requirements.

Licensees may not cancel or allow their liability insurance to lapse or allow a reduction in the available coverage under their policy or policies. Subparagraph (f) of this administrative rule provides that a license shall expire upon:

(1) reduction of the available coverage under the policy below the minimum limits set forth in Paragraph (b) of this Rule;
(2) cancellation of the policy; or
(3) expiration of the policy.

If a license expires for one of these three reasons, it will be reinstated only if the licensee or his insurance company provides to the Division satisfactory proof that the licensee has obtained the required financial responsibility coverage.

Every year, the Structural Pest Control Section (SPCS) must pursue regulatory action before the Structural Pest Control Committee against licensed operators, who allow their liability insurance to lapse and continue to do business. Under 02 NCAC 34.0902 a license expires when the insurance policy has lapsed. When that happens, the licensee must stop providing all services that require a license. The license is expired until such a time as the licensee, the licensee’s insurance company or the pest control company can prove to SPCS they have obtained or reinstated their insurance.

Any structural pest control work done while there is a lapse in insurance coverage is a violation of the N.C. Structural Pest Control Law and the Structural Pest Control Committee can revoke, refuse renewal or refuse reinstatement, and/or impose a civil money penalty for such a violation.

During the Committee meeting on May 15, 2008, the Committee discussed this problem and considered possible increased sanctions it might impose to curb this trend. Among the sanctions and penalties considered by the Committee were:

- Increase the payment the Committee would require to be paid under any agreement submitted to it by the Section and a licensee cited for operating without adequate insurance.
- The payment amount required will be based on amount of work done and/or the total time the insurance was lapsed.
- Require the licensee to contact the Insurance Company (they had prior to the lapse) to see if it is even feasible to get his policy reinstated with the carrier he previously had. We are advised that, in rare cases that Insurance Company will go back and put in force coverage during the lapse if it was a good client, they were not a pay problem in the past, there are no known claims, or some other possible reason. They may have to pay the rest of the policy’s premium and sign a statement of no losses and that he did not let lapse deliberately. This is done only in special circumstances and happens rarely, but it is the best-case scenario if you can get it resolved this way. If they cannot do this to get coverage during the lapsed period, the licensee should then try to purchase coverage from an E&S (Excess Surplus lines) Insurance Company for the lapsed period. The premiums for E&S Markets are much more expensive and cost may depend on the amount of lapsed time, amount of work done during that period, size of the company, history of that company, and numerous other items. NOTE - if the original detection of any problem was made while the Insurance was lapsed, there still could be a situation where there is “no” coverage.
- Require licensee to re-inspect all WDIR 100’s and termite work done during the lapse of insurance. The licensee would have to get inspection notices signed by the customer for each inspection and furnish copies to the Structural Pest Control Section. The licensee’s insurance company may also require copies of these inspections.

Losing your license is a possibility but not the only likely cost of allowing your insurance to lapse. You can easily prevent this from happening, simply by taking those steps that will ensure you renew your insurance coverage on time each year.