



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 28 2019

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Mr. Tony L. Cofer
President
Association of American Pesticide Control Officials Inc.
1445 Federal Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123

Dear Mr. Cofer:

Thank you for your Dec. 17, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to share your concerns about the state certification and training plans for the revised Certification of Pesticide Applicator regulation. We appreciate the opportunity to learn about your concerns.

On Feb. 27, 2019, EPA released guidance materials that will assist states on how to revise EPA-approved certification plans in accordance with the revised Certification of Pesticide Applicators regulation. These materials include an outline for a revised certification plan, a certification plan checklist to aid in tracking progress on plan development, a crosswalk of old and new regulatory text, a comparison chart and answers to frequently asked questions. In the very near future, we anticipate releasing additional Q&As.

States are required to submit a timeline and schedule for changes along with the revised certification plans. As a point of clarification, the rule does not require states to have all changes in place before submitting revised plans to EPA by Mar. 4, 2020. Some states may need extended time for implementing regulatory changes. EPA expects that before submitting a revised plan, each state and EPA will reach a preliminary agreement on the plan changes, associated schedule and timeframes.

We are planning a national Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) course for all states on April 29 - May 3, 2019, that will focus exclusively on preparing for the certification plan revisions. The PREP course will provide all the aforementioned documents to states along with opportunities for training and discussion of key issues/concerns about the plan revision, submission and approval process.

Again, thank you for your letter sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard P. Keigwin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard P. Keigwin, Jr.
Director
Office of Pesticide Programs