

Put Your Knowledge to the Test, then put ACE Behind Your Name!



Editor's note: For those who have worked in the pest management industry for at least seven years, but have not had a chance to become an entomologist through academic training, this is a chance to earn a designation that certifies that you indeed know your bugs. VPMA's current president, Jeff Johnson, recently earned his ACE designation and is very excited to bring this program to PMPs in Virginia. He stresses that preparation is key to being successful, but that the designation earned is worth the effort. Jeff is available to anyone who has questions about the program, just call him at 757-425-0855.

VPMA has been approved as an ACE exam proctor and is ready to launch the first VPMA ACE Preparatory Course this coming August. VPMA chose this date to give everyone enough time to study and to avoid any conflicts with other industry meetings. Below is information that will help you through the application process and will give you an idea of the preparation that will be required to be ready to take the ACE exam.

Going through this information can be daunting and a little intimidating, but for most technicians who have the required seven years of experience, most of this material is probably familiar and may just need to be reviewed.

Keep in mind if you are participating in the VPMA ACE Prep course, your proctor will be available to clarify any questions you may have and the VPMA executive staff will be with you each step of the way as you earn your ACE designation.

ACE Requirements

The ACE program is de-

signed to benefit the practicing pest control professional. You do not need an advanced degree to participate, just a solid grasp of the practical aspects of applied entomology.

To be eligible to apply for the ACE program, you must hold a current pesticide applicators license issued in the U.S. (a copy of that license will be sent to the ESA's Certification Coordinator). The applicant must have a minimum of 7 years of verifiable pest management experience, and must take and pass a test of his/her knowledge of structural pest control. The application fee must be paid and the applicant must be willing to adhere to the ACE Code of Ethics (available at www.entsoc.org). That's it, if you can meet these requirements, you can apply to the program.

ACE Application Process

Becoming an ACE is a rigorous undertaking and all those who are interested in certification are encouraged to take it seriously.

To begin the process the applicant submits an application, a copy of their current pes-

ticide applicator's license, a CV or resume, and an application fee to ESA. Further, the applicant signs a statement agreeing to abide by the ACE Code of Ethics. Frequently the applicant will select a proctor at this time as well. All certification applications must be received no later than 30 days prior to the desired test date. To be able to take the exam at the VPMA ACE Preparatory class in August, you are encouraged to make application as early as possible, but no later than the end of June.

Once your application is submitted, the Chair of the Board of Certified Entomologists (BCE) Examining Committee will review it. If the review is successful, the applicant is contacted and a letter of welcome to the program is sent to the applicant. If the review is not successful, the applicant has the opportunity to withdraw from the program and receive half of his/her fees in return.

At this point, if you have not already done so, you would notify the Certification Coordinator that you have selected VPMA as your proctor and

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provide them with your testing date. The Certification Coordinator will send examination instructions to the VPMA as the proctor.

Immediately following the VPMA ACE Preparatory class, you will be given the opportunity to take the ACE exam. The exam is 150 questions and you will be given three hours to test. The test must be taken in one sitting. No use of outside materials is permitted (e.g., notes, reference books, calculators, etc.). A passing score of 75% must be attained. If re-testing is required, the test must be taken no sooner than 90 days, but no more than 365 days later, or else re-application to the program may be required.

Studying for the ACE Exam

The ACE examination is designed to recognize practicing pest management professionals who have a solid grasp of the practical aspects of applied entomology. The major categories of competency covered by the exam include:

- Basic entomology
- Identification, life cycles, and practical control measures for important structural pests
- Health impacts of pests
- Ecological principles pertaining to pest control
- Environmental impacts related to pest control
- Integrated pest management (IPM) principles
- Pesticide safety and

health issues

- Pesticide technology and resources
- Organizations and associations of significance to the pest control industry
- Laws and regulations affecting the industry

The ESA website provides a complete outline of the topics covered on the exam. At the ESA website you will find a downloadable study guide, a list of additional study resources and practice exams. Please be sure to take advantage of all the tools available to you as you prepare for the ACE exam.

There are currently only a handful of Associate Certified Entomologists in Virginia. ACE

certification can lead to better visibility, opportunities, and jobs. In today's increasingly complex and highly-specialized economy, credentials are everything. So don't wait, put your knowledge to the test, and be one of the elite few who can put the ACE designation behind your name!

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