

Verify You are Hiring a Legal and Safe Drone Applicator



View online, with additional info and links to applicable resources

Before hiring a drone operator, ensure they have:

- ❑ **FAA Remote Pilot Certificate** -- Every commercial drone pilot must hold this certificate, which shows they understand the rules and can operate safely. Employing an operator without the proper "airman's certificate" can lead to federal criminal implications including potential fines, up to three years of imprisonment, or both (49 USC 46306 (b)(8)).
- ❑ **Drone Registration** – All drones used for application must be registered with the FAA and display a registration number on the aircraft.
- ❑ **Agricultural Aircraft Operating Certificate** – Required for anyone applying products by air. This ensures compliance with national safety and environmental standards.
- ❑ **State Pesticide Applicator License** – Applicators must be licensed in each state where they operate. This proves they are trained in safe handling, label laws, and application requirements.
- ❑ **Insurance** – Drone applicators must meet federal and state licensing requirements. Customers contracting application services could be held financially liable for any damage caused, including damage to crops, neighboring properties, or bodily injury to a third party. Without insurance, the drone operator will not be able to pay, and the injured party will look to you.
- ❑ **Application Equipment Pattern Testing** – To ensure a uniform and efficacious application is made, request proof that the aircraft's application equipment has been tested for spray pattern uniformity, label required droplet size, and an appropriate effective swath width at a minimum every two years.
- ❑ **Local Airspace Knowledge and Safety Practices** – Drone operators must not endanger manned aircraft. To prevent a fatal accident from occurring on your property, make sure any drone operator is aware of their duty to avoid all manned aircraft.
- ❑ **Consistent Professional Development** – Contract with an applicator that distinguishes their commitment to safety and quality work by consistently participating in educational programming offered by state/regional agricultural aviation associations, the National Agricultural Aviation Association, and the National Agricultural Aviation Research and Education Foundation

Without proper licensing, training and certification, drone application mistakes are more likely which can harm your crops, neighboring properties, or even people.

Hire Safely. Apply Responsibly.

Upon the Performance of Each, Rests the Fate of All

