

■ FEDERAL AVIATION ACT OF 1958

TERMS:

Certification — With few exceptions, it is illegal for anyone to apply pesticides and other agricultural chemicals from the air without an agricultural aircraft operator certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Before such a certificate may be granted, the applicant must have a commercial or private pilot's license and pass both a written examination and a flight skill test. Among other subjects, the written test covers the applicant's knowledge of safe handling and proper disposal of pesticides, the effects of pesticide exposure and precautions to be taken, the symptoms of pesticide poisoning and emergency procedures, and safe flight and pesticide application techniques.

In addition to pilot-related qualifications, an agricultural aircraft operator certificate will not be issued unless the aircraft to be used by the applicant is fit for operation in the air, as certified by the enforcement agency.

Operating Rules — Pilots applying pesticides and other agricultural chemicals must follow specific rules concerning aircraft design, equipment, and operating procedures. Among other restrictions, no one may apply any substance from an aircraft in a manner that creates a hazard to persons or property on the ground. Aerial applicators may not apply any pesticide for a use other than that for which it is registered, or contrary to any safety instructions or use restrictions on its label.

Records and Reports — Every holder of a commercial agricultural aircraft operator certificate must keep records showing (1) the name and address of each person for whom agricultural aircraft services were provided, (2) the date each service was performed, (3) the name and quantity of the pesticide applied, and (4) the name, address and certificate number of each pilot involved in the operation and the date each pilot met the knowledge and skill requirements described above.

ENFORCEMENT: *Enforcement Division, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20591 (202-267-5158).* Anyone with knowledge of a violation of these provisions may report it to any FAA regional or district office.