

Prescribed Materials Application Business (PMAB) Licence Core Competencies

Who needs a Prescribed Materials Application Business (PMAB) Licence?

You need a PMAB licence if you are in the business of applying prescribed materials to agricultural land that requires a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM) Plan.

A PMAB licence holder may act as an authorized agent for a company.

What laws apply to operating a business that applies prescribed materials?

The laws that relate to this activity are:

- The Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (NMA)
- Ontario Regulation 267/03 (O. Reg. 267/03)
- The associated Protocols.

These laws outline the requirements dealing with nutrient application, including when you are required to be licensed.

What are Core Competencies?

Core Competencies are the skills and knowledge that you need for the PMAB licence. The competencies are organized into four main categories:

1. General Information
2. Nutrient Application
3. Recordkeeping
4. Environmental Management

Getting Your Licence

What do I need to do to be a PMAB licence holder?

The University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus offers training that will help you understand the provincial laws related to the business of land applying prescribed materials and meet the competencies in this document. The required training course for this licence is:

1. Prescribed Materials Business Application Course

This training and these competencies focus on the rules that apply under O. Reg. 267/03.

If you are applying for this licence, you should be familiar with the business of land application and have the basic knowledge and skills needed to run the business (e.g. knowledge of relevant regulations, health and safety and best management practices), or be able to learn through training or practical experience. You can contact OMAFRA if you would like copies of their technical publications to help you learn more.

Is there an exam?

After you complete the course, you will be tested on your knowledge of the provincial laws and the core competencies. You will be given a copy of the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*, O. Reg. 267/03 and the associated Protocols as a reference when you write the exam.

Do I receive my PMAB licence automatically when I pass the exam?

When you have successfully completed the exam (a mark of 75% or higher) you will be eligible to submit an application for your PMAB licence. Passing the PMAB exam also makes you eligible for the Nutrient Application Technician licence. Application forms for these licences will be included with your exam results or can be found at www.nutrientmanagement.ca.

Your licence is valid for 5 years but it can be subject to conditions, amended, suspended or cancelled before it expires if you contravene the laws or if, in the opinion of the OMAFRA Director, you demonstrate incompetence or bad faith in running the business.

It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with current provincial laws after you are licensed and to conduct business in good faith and in a competent manner.

Terms and Definitions

Please carefully review all terms and definitions used in these core competencies. If you do not understand something, review the course material or refer to the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*, O. Reg. 267/03 or the Nutrient Management Protocol.

Notice to Reader

The information contained in this document is derived from the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002* and O. Reg. 267/03. Every effort was made to make it as accurate as possible, but it is not authoritative. Please refer to www.e-laws.gov.on.ca for the authoritative text of the act and regulation. To stay current, please check the “News” page at: www.nutrientmanagement.ca.

For further details about nutrient management legislation, contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs:

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300

Email: nman.omafra@ontario.ca

Visit: ontario.ca/nma

Category 1: General Information

1. Identify the purpose and the goals of the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002* (NMA).
2. Describe how the NMA and Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 267/03 impact specific agricultural and non-agricultural operations, businesses and activities.
3. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the following people, and identify when their services are required:
 - Prescribed Materials Application Business Licence holder
 - Broker Certificate holder
 - Nutrient Application Technician
 - Agricultural Operation Strategy and Plan Development Certificate (AOSPDC) holder
 - NASM Plan Development Certificate holder
 - Farm operator or owner
 - Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) staff
 - OMAFRA staff
4. List the licensing requirements for a PMAB Licence and Nutrient Application Technician Licence, and the renewal timelines for each licence.
5. Define the regulatory and licensing requirements as they relate to an Authorized Agent.
6. Describe and use key terms contained in the NMA and O. Reg. 267/03.
7. Identify materials that are defined as agricultural source material (ASM).
8. Identify materials that are defined as non-agricultural source material (NASM).
9. Describe the information/documents a PMAB will need from a client to determine if a client is, or should be, a phased-in operation as per O. Reg. 267/03.
10. Define “adverse effect” and describe how this would impact the activities of a prescribed material application business.
11. Describe the various compliance and enforcement tools available to the Ministry of the Environment staff under the NMA.

Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS)/ Plan (NMP) and NASM Plan

12. Describe how nutrient units are calculated and identify when an NMP is required.
13. Explain the purpose of an NMS, NMP and NASM Plan.

Category 2: Nutrient Application

Review and Follow a Nutrient Management Plan and NASM Plan

1. Review and be able to implement an NMP, a NASM Plan and a Land Application Schedule for planned nutrient application.

Land Application of Prescribed Materials

2. List the requirements of O. Reg. 267/03 that apply to all land application sites.
3. Describe the requirements for land application of all prescribed materials and operations phased-in under O. Reg. 267/03.

4. Verify that the NMP, NASM Plan or Land Application Schedule reflect current field conditions.
5. Develop standard operating procedures for technicians to follow when an NMP and/or NASM Plan does not accurately reflect a farm operation.
6. Determine appropriate setback distances to regulated sensitive features.
7. List the factors that affect the setback distances when applying prescribed materials.
8. Identify field conditions that will impact the ability to apply prescribed materials.
9. List the factors that affect application rates.
10. Describe why it is important to identify and monitor field tile outlets.
11. Identify regulatory requirements for direct flow application systems and high trajectory guns.
12. Identify pre-harvest and pre-grazing waiting periods when land applying NASM.
13. Identify the site prohibitions related to NASM land application.
14. Identify the restrictions for application of NASM based on depth of unsaturated soil and/or bedrock.
15. Describe the importance of vegetated buffer strips when applying prescribed material.
16. Describe odour management requirements of the regulation to address NASM odour.
17. Describe the requirements for notification to MOECC prior to land application of NASM.
18. Describe what information should be communicated after the application is completed (i.e. to the farmer, MOECC, etc.).
19. Identify surface water as defined in the regulation.
20. Identify different types of wells as defined in the regulation.
21. Determine setbacks to dwellings, residential areas, commercial, community or institutional uses based on odour categorization.

Winter Application of Prescribed Materials

22. Identify regulatory restrictions for winter spreading of prescribed materials.

Category 3: Record Keeping

1. Identify your record keeping requirements according to the Regulation.

Category 4: Environmental Management

Contingency Planning

1. Review, understand, interpret and implement a farmer's Contingency Plan.
2. List the common situations/activities in a prescribed material application business that needs to be addressed in a contingency plan.
3. Cite the Spills Action Centre phone number.

For more information about nutrient management certification:

Toll Free: 1-855-648-1444

E-mail: mmcdonal@uoguelph.ca

www.nutrientmanagement.ca