Nutrient Application Technician Licence
Core Competencies

Who needs a Nutrient Application Technician Licence?

You need a Nutrient Application Technician licence if you are applying nutrients to a phased-in agricultural operation that is required to have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM) Plan and you are not the owner, operator or employee of the operation.

What laws apply to nutrient application?

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 Nutrient Application Technician licence. The competencies are organized into four main categories:

1. General Information
2. Sensitive Features and Setbacks
3. Application
4. Recordkeeping

Getting Your Licence

What do I need to do to be a Nutrient Application Technician?

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

1. Nutrient Application Technician 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 already have the basic knowledge and skill needed to apply nutrients to land, or be able to learn through practical experience, self-study or other training. You can contact OMAFRA if you would like copies of their technical publications to help you learn more about nutrient application.

Is there an exam?

After you complete the course, you will be tested on your knowledge of the provincial laws and the core competencies. The exam is open-book – you can use your Technician course workbook as a reference and you will also be given a copy of the *Nutrient Management Act,* 2002, O. Reg. 267/03 and the associated Protocols.

Do I receive my Nutrient Application Technician 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 licence. An application 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 applying nutrients.

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.
2. List the roles and responsibilities of a nutrient application technician under Ontario Regulation 267/03.
3. Identify when a Nutrient Application Technician's licence is required and licence renewal timeline.
4. Identify the types of actions that would jeopardize the status of a certificate (i.e., amendment, suspension or revocation).
5. Find pertinent information and references in the Nutrient Management Act, Regulation and Protocol documents.
6. Give examples of agricultural source materials (ASM).
7. Give examples of non-agricultural source materials (NASM).
8. Give examples of commercial fertilizer.
9. Define the term nutrient.
10. Define the term prescribed materials.
11. Describe the concept of adverse effect and how as a technician you could potentially cause (or avoid) an adverse effect.
12. List the requirements under O. Reg. 267/03 that must be followed when applying nutrients to all farms in Ontario.
13. Describe the purpose of a nutrient management plan.
14. List the key elements of a nutrient management plan that you will need to apply nutrients in the field.

Category 2: Sensitive Features and Setbacks

1. Describe key terms such as setback, well, surface water, not surface water, vegetated buffer zone, restricted application area (10 m zone), depth to bedrock and top of bank.
2. Find significant features in the field such as wells, surface water, tile drain inlets (eg. Hickenbottoms).
3. List the type of factors that influence setbacks.
4. List the different types of wells identified in the Regulation.
5. Find the regulatory setback distances for all types of nutrients (ASM, NASM, commercial fertilizer, compost) in relationship to all classifications of wells and surface water.

Category 3: Application

1. Define the term "application rate".
2. Identify factors that affect application rate.
3. Review and accurately follow NMP documents in the field.

4. Interpret a field sketch.
5. Identify regulatory restrictions for winter spreading.
6. List the acceptable methods for applying nutrients with high trajectory guns and direct flow application equipment.
7. Describe what you will do if the NMP does not accurately reflect the farm operation.

Contingency Plans

8. Describe how you will follow your company's contingency plan for common nutrient application activities.
9. Describe under what circumstances a contingency plan should be implemented.
10. Describe your role when faced with a contingency situation (e.g. a spill or situation where you are asked to do something in violation of O. Reg. 267/03 or other applicable legislation).
11. Cite the spills action centre phone number.
12. List what you should do in the event of a spill.
13. Identify who to notify when you enact the contingency plan.

Category 4: Recordkeeping

1. Explain the importance of good recordkeeping.
2. Identify your recordkeeping requirements according to the Regulation.
3. Keep accurate, detailed records.

For more information about nutrient management certification:

Toll Free: 1-855-648-1444

E-mail: mmcdonal@uoguelph.ca

www.nutrientmanagement.ca