

**Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement, de  
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs**



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April 9, 2020

Dear Vendor,

The health and well-being of every Ontarian continues to be our number one priority. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to contain the spread of this new virus.

As the province works to keep Ontarians safe during this time, there have been mandatory closures of non-essential workplaces, such as ministry-approved examination sites, and there was also an emergency order prohibiting organized gatherings of more than five people. These measures support the Chief Medical Officer's direction for physical distancing to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

In order to assist the province with its continued efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus has cancelled all in-person courses and exams, including the Pesticide Vendor Certification Course and the Grower Pesticide Safety Course.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is extending the validity of certain pesticide related certificates for holders that are unable to renew their certificate due to the cancellation of mandatory courses and exams during the COVID-19 outbreak. The ministry continues to work with the university to assess alternative options to in-person courses and exams.

### **Extension of certificates**

If a person that works for you has a valid Pesticide Vendor Certification Course certificate with an expiry date on or after January 1, 2020 and is not able to complete the course and exam due to the COVID-19 outbreak, they will be qualified to sell and transfer pesticides until December 31, 2020.

An outlet representative or grower can continue to use their existing certificate, along with the letter they received from the ministry, until December 31, 2020. An outlet representative must continue to meet all other requirements of Ontario Regulation 63/09 subsection 99 (2).

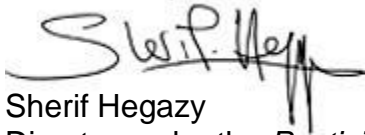
**Required action**

You do not need to take any action at this time.

We appreciate your patience and understanding. We are all working together to combat this outbreak and hope that normal business operations will resume as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please direct them to [SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca](mailto:SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherif Hegazy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Sherif Hegazy  
Director under the *Pesticides Act*

cc: Jamie Sanders, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division