# **Application for / renewal of a Pilot (Chemical Rating) Licence for Remotely Piloted Aircraft under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992***

Required by a person who pilots a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) that undertakes aerial spraying.

Please complete all sections below. See the explanatory notes section for further information on completing this form.

**1. Applicant details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant name** |  |
| **Street address** |  |
| **Town/suburb** |  |
| **State and postcode** |  |
| **Telephone (business hrs)** |  |
| **Fax** |  |
| **Mobile** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Postal address** |  |
| **Town/suburb** |  |
| **State and postcode** |  |
| **Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)** |  |
| **Do you hold or have you previously held a current Pilot (Chemical Rating) Licence (PCRL) issued under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992? (see Explanatory Note 3 overleaf)*** |  |
| **PCRL number (if Yes)** |  |

**2. Details of Remotely Piloted Aircraft to be operated**

Size category (gross weight) of RPA to be operated

Small (2-25kg)

Medium (25-150kg)

Other please specify\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| **Type/model of RPA** |  |

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**3. Civil Aviation Safety Authority licence requirements** See explanatory note 3 overleaf

Do you hold a Remote Pilot’s Licence (RePL) or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Controller’s Certificate issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority that authorises the piloting of the aircraft listed in section 2 above? Yes (please attached copy of licence / certificate and move to section 4)

No – please see questions below

If you answered No to the above, will the aerial spraying meet the requirements for an ‘excluded RPA’ under the Civil Safety Aviation Regulations 1998?

Yes

No

**4. Training in chemical use** See explanatory note 4 overleaf

Do you hold Spraysafe Pilot accreditation (from Aerial Application Association of Australia)?

Yes – Spraysafe Pilot (please attach Spraysafe certificate)

No

Or have you completed the Agvet Chemical User Course containing the units AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (previously AHCCHM303); and AHCCHM304 - Transport and store chemicals) or previous equivalents?

Yes – Agvet chemical users course (please attach statement of attainment)

No

**5. Record keeping requirements?**

I am aware of the record keeping requirements (*see* Pilot responsibilities overleaf)

Yes

No

**6. Have you, or any business that you have been associated with, been convicted of an offence under any of the following Acts?**

* *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*
* *Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*
* *Dangerous Goods Act 1985*
* *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
* *Environment Protection Act 2017 (formerly the Environment Protection Act 1970)*
* *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (formerly the Health Act 1958).*

Yes (If yes, please attach details of ***each conviction***)   No

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**7. Declaration**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_declare the information I have provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signed** |  |
| **Date (dd/mm/yyyy)** |  |

**Privacy statement:** The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the information privacy principles of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. The DEECA Information Privacy Policy is available online at [www.deeca.vic.gov.au](http://www.deeca.vic.gov.au). The personal information on this application form will be stored and used by DEECA for the purposes of administering the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*. You have the right of access to this information by contacting DEECA at the address on this form. The information may be disclosed to another Australian government organisation for the purpose of administering or enforcing the law. If you do not provide the information required by this form DEECA will not be able to process your application.

**8. Payment of application fee**

The application fee for a three-year Pilot (Chemical Rating) Licence (PCRL) as at 1 July 2023 is **$357.75** (22.5 Fee Units as per the *Monetary Units Act 2004*). A combined application for a PCRL and Agricultural Aircraft Operator Licence has a reduced fee of $1017.60 (64 fee units). This value will change on 30 June annually.

Please select and make a payment by one of the following means:

**CHEQUE / MONEY ORDER:** Enclose a cheque/money made payable to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (ABN 83 295 188 244). **Note**: This fee is exempt from the GST.

**CREDIT CARD**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Credit card type (Visa, Mastercard)** |  |
| **Card number** |  |
| **Name on card** |  |
| **Card expiry date** |  |
| **Cardholder signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |

**Note**: This fee is exempt from the GST.

Send your completed application form and payment to **Project Officer Licensing, DEECA; PO Box 2500, BENDIGO DELIVERY CENTRE VIC 3554**

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**Explanatory notes**

1. Any person who pilots a remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) to carry out aerial spraying in Victoria must hold a Pilot (Chemical Rating) Licence (PCRL) issued under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992,* whichspecifically authorises aerial spraying from a RPA.
2. A PCRL will only be granted for the piloting of RPA that are less than 150 kg gross weight (maximum take-off weight).
3. Applicants must hold a Remote Pilot’s Licence (RePL) or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Controller’s Certificate as required by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) for the RPA to be piloted, unless exempted under Regulation 101.237 of the **Civil Safety Aviation Regulations 1998**. To operate a RPA without a RePL, CASA requirements include that the RPA must only be flown over the person’s own land, must not be operated for remuneration and must be operated within CASA standard operating conditions. The RPA must also be less than 25kg gross weight. For further information on excluded RPAs, please go to [the CASA website](file:///C:\Users\jr18\Downloads\the%20CASA%20website).
4. Applicants must hold Pilot Spraysafe accreditation from the Aerial Application Association of Australia or complete the units AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (previously AHCCHM303) and AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals, or previous equivalents.
5. Records of chemical use must be kept in accordance with the **Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017.** See the section below on pilot responsibilities**.**
6. A person who pilots an aircraft carrying out aerial spraying in Victoria must be either an employee of a holder of an Agricultural Aircraft Operator Licence (AAOL) r that authorises aerial spraying operations from RPAs in Victoria or hold an AAOL themselves. A combined application for both a PCRL and AAOL has a reduced fee of $1017.60 (as at 1 July 2023) (64 Fee Units as per the *Monetary Units Act 2004*).
7. If the applicant already holds a current PCRL (for traditional manned aircraft), they are not required to pay the application fee. Upon approval of their application for a RPA PCRL, they will be re-issued their current PCRL with conditions authorising aerial spraying from RPA.
8. To use products containing 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate), the PCRL holder must have completed the 22516VIC *Course in Minimising Risks in the Use of 1080 and PAPP Bait Products for Vertebrate Pest Control* (or previous equivalents 22275VIC or 21835VIC).

**Pilot responsibilities**

Under the **Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017** (the Regulations) several requirements apply to a person undertaking aerial spraying.

1. **Record keeping –** Aperson who uses an agricultural chemical product must, within 48 hours of using that product, cause an accurate written record to be made of the points of information provided below. The person must keep the records for two years. Records may be made by a third party (e.g. a supervisor or assistant) or via automated data logging, but the user must ensure they are accurate and are kept for two years.

DEECA audits compliance with record keeping requirements. Record keeping templates are available on [the Agriculture Victoria website](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicals).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. Product trade name | f. Wind speed and direction at the time of application (if spraying outdoors) |
| b. Date the product was used | g. Name and contact details of the applicator |
| c. Application rate of the product or sufficient information to allow it to be calculated | h. Name and contact details of the supervisor (if applicable) |
| d. Crop/commodity that was treated or the situation in which the product was applied | i. Name and contact details of the person for whom the application was carried out (if applicable) |
| e. Specific location at which the product was used |  |

1. **Aerial spraying equipment**

Under the Regulations, a person must not carry out aerial spraying unless any one or more of the following circumstances applies:

* a smoke generating device is used at ground level at or near the point of spraying immediately before and during spraying
* the aircraft is fitted with a smoke generating device that is operated immediately before and during spraying
* a windsock is in operation and is clearly visible to the pilot at ground level at or near the point of spraying immediately before and during spraying
* an automatic weather station is located at or near the point of spraying and information about the wind speed and direction is available to the pilot immediately before and during spraying
* the pilot maintains continuous radio communication before and during the spraying with a ground-based person near the point of spraying who uses equipment to measure the wind speed and direction.

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1. **Notification of aerial spraying near specified places**

At least 12 hours before aerial or mister spraying is to occur within 200 m of a school, hospital, aged care service or children’s service (specified place), the occupier of the land must make every reasonable effort to inform the school principal, site manager or person in charge of the facility of:

* Trade name of chemical product to be used
* Location of the proposed spraying
* Proposed time, date and duration of spraying

There are also notification requirements where an employee or contractor is used. At the time a person is employed or contracted to carry out spraying by aircraft or mister within 200 m of a specified place, the occupier of the land must advise them in writing of:

* The details of the location/s of any school, hospital, aged care service or children’s service within 200 m of the land to be sprayed.

At least 24 hours before spraying is to occur, the employee or contractor must provide the occupier of the land with:

* Trade name of chemical product to be used
* Proposed time, date and duration of the spraying

A notification template is available on [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse)

1. **Conditions for aerial application from RPA**

Additional conditions apply to application of agricultural chemicals from RPA. The conditions will accompany the PCRL and are enforceable under the Act. A summary of the conditions are as follows:

* The RPA must be operated in accordance within RPA Standard Operating Conditions as described by Regulation 101.238 of the **Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998** only.
* Despite the above, the pilot may undertake aerial spraying with up to five RPA simultaneously if approved by CASA to do so.
* Chemical products must not be applied before sunrise or after sunset.
* The RPA must be under 150 kg gross weight.
* Autonomous operation is prohibited (autonomous operation is where there is no ability for the pilot to intervene in the conduct of the flight).
* Use must be in accordance with the CASA operations manual of AAOL holder under which the pilot is operating.
* Nozzles must NOT be positioned outside of the rotation of the propeller tips.
* Nozzles must be equally spaced.
* The RPA must have active pump and nozzle shut off systems.
* All use must only be in accordance with the label of the chemical product or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit instructions for:
  + aerial application including water rates; or
  + spot spraying including water mixing rates. Spot spraying instructions are usually described as ‘high volume spraying’ and often include instructions for ‘knapsack’ or ‘handgun’.
* Chemical products must not be applied using low volume or concentrate application techniques unless the label or permit provides directions for these techniques by aerial application.
* The chemical product must be used in accordance with the wind speed parameters provided on the label of the chemical product or the permit. If the label or permit does not provide parameters for wind speed, only spray when the wind is greater than 3km/hr or less than 13 km/hr.
* If the PCRL holder does not hold a RePL from CASA, aerial spraying from RPA must only be conducted in accordance with the CASA excluded category as provided under Regulation 101.237 of the **Civil Safety Aviation Regulations 1998**.

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1. **Regulation of aerial spraying from remotely piloted aircraft**

Additional requirements apply to persons undertaking aerial spraying from remotely piloted aircraft in Victoria. Aerial spray from remotely piloted aircraft must:

* not be conducted before sunrise or after sunset; and
* only be conducted if the approved label of the agricultural chemical product or permit specifies the use to be undertaken by aerial spraying or spot spraying, and instructions for aerial spraying or spot spraying in relation to that use are complied with, including any water rates; and

**Note:** Spot spraying instructions are alternatively described as ‘high volume spraying’ and can be accompanied by instructions for application by ‘knapsack’ or ‘handgun’.

* not be conducted using ultra-low volume application technique or concentrate application technique unless the approved label for the agricultural chemical product or permit provides directions for the use of these techniques by aerial spraying; and
* be undertaken in accordance with the wind speed parameters specified on the approved label of the agricultural chemical product or permit. If the approved label of the agricultural chemical product or permit does not specify wind speed parameters, aerial spraying must only be conducted when the wind speed is greater than 3km/hr and less than 13km/hr at the time and place of application.

**For more information, contact the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit** [**the Agriculture Victoria website**](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicals)**.**

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