

Application of pesticides by drone

Your obligations and responsibilities

September 2026

NEW

You can now use a drone to apply pesticides that are registered for conventional aerial application (airplane or helicopter).

What permits and certificates are required?



Company (agricultural or other)

- A **permit** for aerial application (Subclass C1 or D1)
- Where applicable, you must [register your drone](#) with Transport Canada.



Employee, farmer or forest manager

- A **certificate** for aerial application (Subclass CD1)
- A **drone pilot certificate** issued by Transport Canada

What exams must you pass to obtain or renew the required certificate?

Your situation

The exam or combination of exams

You do not hold any certificate.

You hold only Class A or Subclass B1, B2, CD12 or E4.

You hold any of the following subclasses:

- From CD2 to CD11;
- E1, E2, E3 or E5;
- F1, F1.1 or F2.

You hold Subclass CD1.

- *Tronc commun pour les utilisateurs de pesticides AND Application par aéronef, y compris par drone* OR
- *Utilisation de pesticides en milieu agricole AND Application par aéronef, y compris par drone, en milieu agricole*

- *Application par aéronef, y compris par drone* OR
- *Application par aéronef, y compris par drone, en milieu agricole*

When you renew your certificate, if its expiry date is on or after March 1, 2027:

- *Application par aéronef, y compris par drone* OR
- *Application par aéronef, y compris par drone, en milieu agricole*

How can you take the exams and prepare for them?

- ▶ **Registration** for the online exams and **purchase of the learning guides** in digital format are handled by the Société de formation à distance (SOFAD).
 - The learning guide *Application par aéronef, y compris par drone* helps you prepare for the exam [Application par aéronef, y compris par drone](#).
 - The learning guide *Application par aéronef, y compris par drone, en milieu agricole* helps you prepare for the exam [Application par aéronef, y compris par drone, en milieu agricole](#).
- ▶ For each exam passed, the SOFAD will issue you an **attestation of the successful completion**, which you must attach to your certificate application.

The [policy on the administration of prescribed exams](#) specifies the conditions for taking an exam, the conditions for retaking it in the event of failure and the measures taken in the event of cheating.

How can you obtain a certificate?

- ▶ **Option 1 – Paper form**
 - Mail your duly completed [form](#) (French), the supporting documents and payment by cheque or postal money order to your [regional office](#) (French).
- ▶ **Option 2 – Online service**
 - Make sure you hold a [Government Authentication Service account](#).
 - Fill out your application [online](#) and pay the fees by credit card.

For more information, see the [Certificates for the sale and use of pesticides page](#).

The following other rules also apply:

Sale and use

For example:

- Comply with mandatory distances;
- Keep registers of pesticide purchases and use;
- Sell pesticides registered for application by aircraft or by drone only to holders of a Subclass C1 or D1 permit.

Ministerial authorization

For pesticide application work:

- in an aquatic environment with an outlet into the hydrographic network;
- by aircraft in a forest environment or for non-agricultural purposes.

For more information, see the [guide on applying for a ministerial authorization for the use of pesticides](#) (French).

Compliance with the label

All the conditions indicated, without modifying those relating to aerial application, including the spray volume, application rate, droplet size and buffer zones.

Do you have any questions?

- For permits and certificates, contact your [regional office](#) (French).
- For exams and learning guides, contact the [SOFAD](#).
- For any other question, use the inquiry form [inquiry form](#) (French).

The information contained in this document does not cover all aspects of regulation, and in no way replaces the regulatory texts published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

