

# Iowa DOA CORE Pesticide Applicator's License Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

**No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.**

**Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.**

**SAMPLE**

# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

SAMPLE

# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. In a tank mix of two pesticides, the re-entry interval after application should be based on the product with which characteristic?**
  - A. The shorter REI**
  - B. The longer REI**
  - C. The average REI**
  - D. Unknown REI**
  
- 2. Which of the following is TRUE for persistent pesticides?**
  - A. Remain inactive for short periods of time**
  - B. Remain inactive for long periods of time**
  - C. Stay in the environment without change for short periods of time**
  - D. Stay in the environment without change for long periods of time**
  
- 3. Which agency regulates the sale and use of pesticides in the United States?**
  - A. Environmental Protection Agency**
  - B. Food and Drug Administration**
  - C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
  - D. United States Department of Agriculture**
  
- 4. Where should pesticides be stored in relation to feed or seed?**
  - A. In the same room as feed or seed**
  - B. Away from feed or seed**
  - C. On the floor near seed bins**
  - D. Next to the feed storage**

5. You are treating a turf area for bluegrass billbug. You are using a granular insecticide with a labeled rate of 6 pounds per 1000 square feet. The turf area is 150 feet by 600 feet. Approximately how much insecticide do you need to treat the total area?
- A. 300 pounds
  - B. 360 pounds
  - C. 540 pounds
  - D. 1080 pounds
6. What is a disadvantage of using an ultra low volume concentrate formulation?
- A. It is difficult to handle, transport, and store
  - B. Specialized equipment is required
  - C. The amount of visible residue on treated surfaces
  - D. It tends to plug screens and nozzles
7. What is a disadvantage of dust formulations?
- A. Require specialized equipment
  - B. May need moisture to activate pesticide
  - C. Easily drift off-target during application
  - D. Require constant agitation
8. Which statement best describes the purpose of a pesticide label's first aid section?
- A. It provides storage locations
  - B. It lists what to do in case of exposure
  - C. It describes sale restrictions
  - D. It explains label color coding
9. Which process refers to the breakdown of a pesticide due to exposure to sunlight?
- A. Bioconcentration
  - B. Leaching
  - C. Photodecomposition
  - D. Volatilization

**10. Which agency is listed as regulating the sale and use of pesticides in the United States?**

- A. United States Department of Agriculture**
- B. Environmental Protection Agency**
- C. Food and Drug Administration**
- D. Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

**SAMPLE**

## Answers

SAMPLE

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. A

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

**1. In a tank mix of two pesticides, the re-entry interval after application should be based on the product with which characteristic?**

- A. The shorter REI**
- B. The longer REI**
- C. The average REI**
- D. Unknown REI**

When two pesticides are mixed and applied together, you have to protect anyone who might enter the treated area from both products. The re-entry interval is the waiting period after application before it's safe to re-enter. Because a worker could be exposed to residues from either product, the overall restriction must reflect the longer waiting period. Using the longer REI provides a safety margin that covers the needs of both products, whereas relying on the shorter REI could allow entry while one product still has restrictions. Averaging or guessing isn't acceptable—follow the label that imposes the strictest re-entry. So, the tank mix should be treated as having the longer REI.

**2. Which of the following is TRUE for persistent pesticides?**

- A. Remain inactive for short periods of time**
- B. Remain inactive for long periods of time**
- C. Stay in the environment without change for short periods of time**
- D. Stay in the environment without change for long periods of time**

Persistent pesticides are chemicals that resist breakdown in the environment, so they stay around for a long time. This longevity means they can linger in soil and water and even accumulate in organisms, potentially moving up the food chain and causing long-term effects. The defining idea is that they remain in the environment without changing for long periods of time. The other statements describe short durations or inactivity, which don't capture the lasting presence that persistence implies.

**3. Which agency regulates the sale and use of pesticides in the United States?**

- A. Environmental Protection Agency**
- B. Food and Drug Administration**
- C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
- D. United States Department of Agriculture**

Pesticide regulation in the United States is handled by the Environmental Protection Agency. Under federal law, the EPA registers pesticides, approves their labels, and controls how they can be sold and used to protect people, pets, wildlife, and the environment. The label isn't just guidance—it's a legal document that dictates where, when, and how a product can be applied. Other agencies have related roles but not the primary regulatory authority. The FDA oversees pesticide residues in food to some extent, OSHA focuses on workplace safety, and the USDA supports pest management programs and agricultural research. None of them regulate the sale and use of pesticides the way the EPA does under FIFRA. So, the agency that regulates the sale and use of pesticides is the Environmental Protection Agency.

4. Where should pesticides be stored in relation to feed or seed?

- A. In the same room as feed or seed
- B. Away from feed or seed**
- C. On the floor near seed bins
- D. Next to the feed storage

Keep pesticides away from feed or seed. When they're stored in the same room or next to feed, a spill, leak, or residue can contaminate the feed or seed, making it unsafe for animals and for people handling it. Pesticide containers can release vapors or transfer residues to surfaces and bags, so separation minimizes cross-contamination and helps ensure food and animal safety. Storing pesticides in a dedicated, secure area reduces the risk and aligns with typical storage guidance and label requirements.

5. You are treating a turf area for bluegrass billbug. You are using a granular insecticide with a labeled rate of 6 pounds per 1000 square feet. The turf area is 150 feet by 600 feet. Approximately how much insecticide do you need to treat the total area?

- A. 300 pounds
- B. 360 pounds
- C. 540 pounds**
- D. 1080 pounds

When applying a rate per area, multiply the rate by how many thousands of square feet are in the total area. The turf area is 150 ft by 600 ft, which equals 90,000 square feet. The label calls for 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet, so for 90,000 square feet you need  $90 \times 6 = 540$  pounds. Therefore you'd use about 540 pounds of insecticide. The other options correspond to different total areas, not the 90,000 ft<sup>2</sup> you've got.

6. What is a disadvantage of using an ultra low volume concentrate formulation?

- A. It is difficult to handle, transport, and store
- B. Specialized equipment is required**
- C. The amount of visible residue on treated surfaces
- D. It tends to plug screens and nozzles

Ultra-low volume concentrate formulations are meant to be applied as extremely fine droplets, so they have to be atomized with equipment designed specifically for ULV use. That equipment carefully controls droplet size, flow, and application rate, and often relies on specialized nozzles, high precision regulators, and sometimes air or high pressure assistance. Because of this, the main downside is the need for that specialized equipment to apply the product correctly and safely—and the associated costs and training that come with it. The other points aren't as central to ULV use: handling, transporting, and storing ULV concentrates aren't inherently more difficult than other concentrates; visible residue on treated surfaces isn't a defining issue of ULV formulations, and plugging screens and nozzles isn't a general problem specific to ULV concentrates.

## 7. What is a disadvantage of dust formulations?

- A. Require specialized equipment
- B. May need moisture to activate pesticide
- C. Easily drift off-target during application**
- D. Require constant agitation

Dust formulations are dry powders with very small particles, and their fineness makes them easily carried by air currents. That means they can drift off-target during application, especially in breezy conditions or when the applicator stirs or pours the powder. This drift reduces effectiveness on the intended pest and increases the risk of contaminating nearby non-target crops, humans, and beneficial insects. In contrast, dusts typically don't require specialized equipment, aren't activated by moisture, and don't need constant agitation, so those aspects aren't the main drawbacks of using dusts. The key idea is that drift is the main disadvantage of powder formulations.

## 8. Which statement best describes the purpose of a pesticide label's first aid section?

- A. It provides storage locations
- B. It lists what to do in case of exposure**
- C. It describes sale restrictions
- D. It explains label color coding

The crucial idea here is that the first aid section of a pesticide label tells you exactly what to do if someone is exposed to the product. It provides actionable steps for exposure, notes symptoms to watch for, and often includes emergency contact information so you can get help quickly and correctly. This direct guidance is what makes it the right choice, because the section is designed to minimize harm by outlining immediate, practical actions for exposure scenarios. Storage locations, sale restrictions, and label color coding belong to other parts of the label or to separate safety information. Storage details tell you where to keep products, sale restrictions cover regulatory limits on who can buy or sell, and color coding relates to hazard classification rather than immediate first aid actions.

## 9. Which process refers to the breakdown of a pesticide due to exposure to sunlight?

- A. Bioconcentration
- B. Leaching
- C. Photodecomposition**
- D. Volatilization

Photodecomposition is the breakdown of a pesticide caused by exposure to light, especially sunlight. When pesticide molecules absorb photons, the energy can break chemical bonds and transform the molecule into different, often less active, products. This sunlight-driven degradation helps reduce how long the pesticide remains on plant surfaces or in shallow water, affecting its environmental persistence. Bioconcentration involves accumulation in organisms, not breakdown by light. Leaching is the movement of substances downward through soil with water, not their chemical decomposition. Volatilization is the substance changing to a gas and leaving as vapor, which is a phase change rather than chemical breakdown.

**10. Which agency is listed as regulating the sale and use of pesticides in the United States?**

**A. United States Department of Agriculture**

**B. Environmental Protection Agency**

**C. Food and Drug Administration**

**D. Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

Pesticide regulation in the United States is handled by the Environmental Protection Agency. Under FIFRA, the EPA registers pesticides and requires product labeling that sets out how they can be sold and used, including application instructions and safety precautions. While other agencies touch related areas—FDA oversees pesticide residues in foods, USDA provides agricultural programs and pest-management support, and OSHA focuses on worker safety rather than regulating pesticide products—the EPA is the primary regulator of sale and use.

**SAMPLE**

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://coreiowadoapesticideapp.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

SAMPLE