

# Licensing of Commensal Rodent Trappers<sup>1</sup>

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The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement (FDACS BLE) administers Limited Certification Categories to certify Governmental or Private applicators. Limited certification programs available are for Commercial Landscape Maintenance, Lawn and Ornamental, Structural, and Urban Commercial Fertilizer applicators and Limited Commercial Wildlife Management trappers. This document will discuss the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Trapper Certificate.

## Who is required to hold this certificate?

Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certification is required for any person who engages in the commercial trapping of wildlife—using nonchemical methods, including traps, glue boards, mechanical or electronic devices, and exclusionary techniques to control commensal rodents in, on, or under structures (Figure 1). Under this certificate, commensal rodents are referred to as rats and mice. FDACS requires that persons commercially trapping other nuisance wildlife species (e.g., raccoons, opossums, armadillos, skunks, squirrels) in, on, or under structures obtain a Pest Control Operator certificate in General Household Pests as outlined in Florida Statute 482.111. These structures can be residential, governmental, or commercial structures such as homes, schools, municipal/agency offices, banks, grocery stores, apartments, condominium common areas, hotels, restaurants, etc. Persons who are trapping wildlife on their own personal property do not need certification.



Figure 1. Rat captured in a box trap.

Credits: Liz Kasameyer, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Bugwood.org

## What are the limitations of this certificate?

Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certification does not authorize:

- The use of pesticides or chemical substances, other than adhesive materials, to control rodents or other nuisance wildlife in, on, or under structures;
- Operation of a pest control business; or
- Supervision of an uncertified person using nonchemical methods to control rodents

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## Is there an exam that must be passed to obtain this certificate?

Yes; a person seeking limited certification in Commercial Wildlife Management must pass an exam. The exam is offered online at select UF/IFAS Extension offices. For a listing of offices offering online exams, go to <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/public/countyList.faces>. The exam is also offered quarterly, or as necessary, in Apopka at the UF/IFAS Mid Florida Research and Education Center located at 2725 South Binion Road, Apopka, Florida, 32703. The exam is composed of 30 multiple choice questions and a passing score of 70% is required.

## Are there study materials to prepare myself for the exam?

Yes; see Table 1 for a listing and their sources.

Table 1. Study materials for the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certificate and their sources.

Material	Source
Chapter 482, Florida Statutes	<a href="#">Download here</a>
Chapter 5E-14, Florida Administrative Code	<a href="#">Download here</a>
The Florida Mouse	<a href="#">Download here</a>
Rat and Mouse Control	<a href="#">Download here</a>
Dealing with Unwanted Wildlife in an Urban Environment	<a href="#">Download here</a>
Non-Chemical Rodent Control	<a href="#">Download here</a>

## How do I apply to take the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management exam?

Application is made to the BLE with the required fee, a check or money order in the amount of \$150 made payable to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and, upon approval, an admission slip is provided to the applicant. Applications are taken either online at <https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com/> or mail at [https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/38299/853877/limited\\_wildlife\\_pkt\\_072017.pdf](https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/38299/853877/limited_wildlife_pkt_072017.pdf).

## What are the insurance requirements for the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certificate?

Prior to issuance of the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management certificate, proof of insurance is required. This is documented using a Certificate of Insurance (DACS Form 13688) that indicates that the employer meets the requirements for minimum financial responsibility for bodily injury and property damage consisting of:

- Bodily injury: \$250,000 each person and \$500,000 each occurrence; and property damage \$250,000 each occurrence and \$500,000 in the aggregate; or
- Combined single limit coverage: \$500,000 in the aggregate

## What are the renewal requirements for the Limited Commercial Wildlife Management Certificate?

The annual recertification must be accompanied by a fee of \$75 and proof of having obtained four hours of acceptable continuing education units (CEUs) submitted on DACS Form 13325 and proof of insurance. A total of 4 CEUs (2 core + 2 category) are required for renewal. CEU opportunities are listed online at <http://ceupublicsearch.freshfromflorida.com/>.