

A knowledge session is conducted by a knowledge provider. The knowledge provider and the session must be approved by the Bureau Erkenningen (Accreditations Office). There are very many different sessions intended for all kinds of sectors (arable farming, open-field vegetable cultivation, glasshouse horticulture, processing of work under contract, master gardeners sector, animal husbandry). The nature of the sessions is also diverse: lectures, field meetings, theory classes, internet modules. The full range of knowledge sessions can be found on the Bureau Erkenningen website. You can narrow your search by subject, sector, place and date. Holders of the certificate of professional competence select their own knowledge sessions and can directly apply via the website.

Extending the certificate of professional competence via knowledge sessions

Subject		Safety and Technology	Crop Cultivation	Transport/ Storage
Licence	Minimum participation			
Implementing plant protection	4 knowledge sessions	1 knowledge session is compulsory	participation is optional	participation is optional
Managing plant protection	4 knowledge sessions	1 knowledge session is compulsory	1 knowledge session is compulsory	participation is optional
Management + Distribution	5 knowledge sessions	1 knowledge session is compulsory	1 knowledge session is compulsory	1 knowledge session is compulsory
Distributing Pesticides	3 knowledge sessions	participation is optional	participation is optional	1 knowledge session is compulsory

Further information can be found at www.erkenningen.nl.

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Bureau Erkenningen is part of the AOC Raad.

Bureau
Erkenningen

Chemical plant protection in the Netherlands



Pesticides in the Netherlands

Anyone wishing to use chemical pesticides as a professional in the Netherlands needs a 'certificate of professional competence'. These certificates are issued by the Bureau Erkenningen (Accreditations Office) on the instructions of the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The Bureau Erkenningen registers holders of certificates of professional competence and inspects courses before renewing certificates of professional competence.

Types of professional competence certificates

- The basic certificate is **'Implementation'**. This is needed to buy, use or store plant protection products at a production holding.

There are a number of further licences after the basic 'implementation' certificate:

- **'Management'**, for owners of agricultural service supply agencies or for information providers.
- **'Distribution'**, for transport and storage of plant protection products at a trading company.
- **'Management & Distribution'**, for transport and storage of plant protection products at a trading company and for providing information.

Certificates of professional competence are valid for five years. The authorities may decide to withdraw a certificate if plant protection products are used incorrectly or carelessly.

Types of professional competence certificates and storage

Name	When necessary
Implementing plant protection	Buying, using or storing plant protection products.
Managing plant protection	Agricultural service supply agencies; providing information.
Distributing pesticides	Transport operations and storage of pesticides at trading companies.
Management + Distribution	Agricultural service supply agencies; providing information + transport operations and storage of plant protection products at companies.

Obtaining and maintaining a certificate of professional competence

Minimum requirement for initial application:

An initial certificate of professional competence can be obtained only when the applicant has an agricultural training diploma, which includes plant protection. Foreign diplomas should be comparable in terms of level and content. In addition, the prospective licence-holder must have a command of the Dutch language sufficient to be able to read and understand labels.

Requirements of non-residents of the Netherlands

- A certificate of professional competence in plant protection can be issued to an individual with a non-Dutch training if it is proved that this person has comparable qualifications.
- Training outside the Netherlands shall not have taken place more than five (5) years ago.
- The applicant is sufficiently familiar with the Dutch language that instructions on labels of plant protection products and other valid instructions can be understood and implemented.

Source: AMVB Gewasbeschermingsmiddelen en Biociden (Order in Council on Plant protection products and Biocides), Article 19 Foreign certificates

Extending the certificate of professional competence

There are two possibilities of extending the certificate of professional competence after five years.

- 1) You can take a further examination.
- 2) You can attend appropriate knowledge sessions during the certificate's period of validity.

