

Certificated Field Biologist

This qualification is aimed at technicians working in the more complex sector of the food manufacturing industry and the grade will reflect this requirement.

Candidates for this exam should have experience in a range of sites associated with the food industry. The portfolio should include typed inspection reports, produced by the candidate, from at least ten different sites. *Information that might identify the customer concerned should be removed from these reports.*

Examples of the types of site that would be considered appropriate include:

- Food manufacturing facilities
 - o Bakeries
 - o Flour mills, maltings, breweries and grain terminals
 - o Meat, fish and chilled foods processors and manufacturers
 - o Vegetable processors and packers
 - o Confectionary manufacturers etc. etc.
- Wet and dry pet-food manufacturers
- Animal husbandry units
- Food warehouses and distribution centres
- Hospitals, prisons, universities and similar large public and private sector institutions
- Cook-chill catering units
- Large hotels or large food retail outlets

Please note however that this is not an exhaustive list. The fundamental objective of the portfolio is to allow the prospective candidate to demonstrate that they are capable of producing a 'quality' report concerning their inspection of the site concerned. This should detail all observations, the potential implications of these for the customer and the most effective means of resolving problems or issues raised.

All candidates must fulfill the entrance criteria prior to applying to sit the Certificated Field Biologist examination.

Criteria for the Certificated Field Biologist Qualification

BPCA Part II / Accredited Technician in Pest Control

2 years practical experience

Intermediate Food Hygiene

Membership of CPD scheme

Food & Drink Safety Passport

Portfolio demonstrating practical experience in relevant inspection work.

Field Biologist examination

Exam details

Section A - Insect Identification

Section B - Long Answer Questions - answer 2 of 3 questions

Section C - Short Answer Questions - 15 questions

Section A consists of 35 specimens to be identified, preferably by the scientific name, although marks will be awarded for identification by the common name. Delegates will have 1 hour to complete this section. Delegates are welcome to use their own hand lens.

Delegates will have 2.5 hours in which to sit Sections B & C.

Candidates are allowed to bring any other tools they may use as part of their work kit – with the exception of any reference manuals and identification books.

Past exam papers will not be released into the public domain and will not be available upon request. All potential candidates should be at a point in their career when they should know where and how to obtain information.

Pass Marks

Each section will be individually marked. To pass the examination delegates must achieve over 60% in each section. A mark of over 75% in each section will earn a distinction (this must be achieved on the first sitting of the exam - re-sit delegates cannot achieve a distinction).

If a candidate fails either the identification section or written section, a credit will be held for a period of 12 months; re-sits will be charged at £150 + VAT per section for members and £225 + VAT for non-members.

Certificated Periods

To ensure that candidates remain active within the CPD scheme and within the industry, certificates issued will carry an annual validity timescale.

Annual submissions will be required and will run from the candidates examination date with a 3 month run on to accommodate any renewal delays.

There will be no charge for BPCA members and £35 + VAT for non-members.

The exam can be adapted to accommodate candidates with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, providing advance notification is given and the candidate has undergone a professional assessment. An additional fee may be payable should a reader and/or scribe be required.

Cancellation

Cancellations can only be accepted on receipt of written instruction and are effective from the date received by the BPCA. Charges will be applied as per the table below:

Working days prior to exam	BPCA/RSPH (Level 2) Certificate in Pest Control	All other exams
More than 15 working days	No charge	No charge
10-15 working days	100% of exam fee	No charge
5-10 working days	100% of exam fee	50% of exam fee
Less the 5 working days	100% of exam fee	100% of exam fee