15A NCAC 10H .1510 is proposed for adoption as follows:

15A NCAC 10H .1510 Wildlife Control Technician Certification Eligibility and Requirements

(a) The following definitions shall apply in this Section:

   (1) “Wildlife control technician” or “WCT” means an individual that holds a current and valid wildlife control technician certification issued by the Commission.

   (2) “Wildlife control technician certification” or “WCT certification” means a certification issued by the Commission that authorizes an individual to engage in wildlife control or wildlife removal activities, for compensation, including reimbursement for the cost of materials, under the supervision of a licensed wildlife control agent.

   (3) “Direct supervision” means to physically be within one’s presence while maintaining visual and verbal contact.

   (4) “Wildlife damage control” and “wildlife removal activities” means and includes:

   (A) bat eviction and alligator damage control or removal activities;

   (B) setting and moving traps;

   (C) euthanasia; and

   (D) issuing depredation permits in accordance with the applicable provision and requirements of 15A NCAC 10H .1502

(b) It shall be unlawful to engage in wildlife damage control or wildlife removal activities for compensation, without first obtaining a WCT certification from the Commission, except that licensed trappers taking wild animals during the applicable open trapping season for that species shall not be required to obtain a WCT certification.

(c) Wildlife control technicians may only perform the following wildlife control or removal activities under direct supervision of a licensed WCA, or certified Alligator Control Agent if applicable:

   (1) placement of traps;

   (2) euthanasia of wildlife;

   (3) bat evictions; and

   (4) alligator removal or relocation.

(d) Wildlife control technicians shall not issue depredation permits.

(e) Individuals shall complete a Commission-approved, WCT training course, that reviews wildlife laws and rules, including methods for trapping, capture, and safe and humane wildlife handling to qualify for a WCT certification.

(f) Individuals may register for a Commission-approved training course at www.ncwildlife.org/wca. Required information shall include the following:

   (1) the applicant's name, mailing address, email address, residence address, telephone number, driver's license number, and date of birth; and

   (2) organizational affiliation, if applicable.

(g) A WCT certification shall not be transferable between individuals.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274