

**CHAPTER 62-699
CLASSIFICATION AND STAFFING OF WATER OR DOMESTIC WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANTS AND WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS**

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62-699.200 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words, phrases, or terms shall have the following meaning.

(1) "APPROVED COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT" means Broward, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, or Volusia County Health Department pursuant to Section 403.862(1)(c), F.S.

(2) "AUTOMATIC CONTROL SYSTEM" means an on-site computerized system with sensors and programs that can adjust and control domestic wastewater or water treatment plant equipment and processes over the normal range of expected operating conditions without operator assistance.

(3) "COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM" or "CWS" means a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

(4) "CONSECUTIVE SYSTEM" means a public water system that receives some or all of its finished water from one or more wholesale systems. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems.

(5) "DELEGATED LOCAL PROGRAM" means Broward County (collection systems only), Miami-Dade County, Hillsborough County, Palm Beach County, or Sarasota County pursuant to Section 403.182, F.S.

(6) "DEPARTMENT" means the Department of Environmental Protection, any of the approved county health departments, or any of the delegated local programs.

(7) "DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT" means any plant or other works used for the purpose of treating, stabilizing, or holding domestic wastes.

(8) "ELECTRONIC CONTROL SYSTEM" means a comprehensive automatic control system plus electronic surveillance system along with capability for manual adjustment and control of domestic wastewater or water treatment plant equipment and processes via a computerized system at a central or off-site location that is staffed by a Class C or higher treatment plant operator 24 hours per day and seven days per week.

(9) "ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM" means a system that monitors operation of a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant and transmits the results of such monitoring by electronic means to a central or off-site location. The use of a telephone for communication between the lead/chief operator and plant personnel is not considered electronic surveillance.

(10) "LEAD OR CHIEF OPERATOR" means the licensed operator who is in responsible charge of a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant or water distribution system and whose responsibilities include supervising all other persons who are employed to operate the plant or distribution system, performing on-site plant or distribution system operation, performing electronic control system operation, and making decisions that relate to the daily operational activities of the plant or distribution system and that directly impact the quality or quantity of effluent, reclaimed water, or drinking water.

(11) "NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM" means a public water system that is not a community water system. A non-community water system is either a transient non-community water system or a non-transient non-community water system.

(12) “NON-TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM” or “NTNCWS” means a public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.

(13) “ON-SITE,” when referring to operating, staffing, visiting, or checking a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant, means at the location of the plant; and when referring to operating or staffing a water distribution system, means at the location of the distribution system pipe, pumps, or tanks where operation or maintenance activities that may affect water quality or quantity are taking place.

(14) “OPERATOR” means any person who is in on-site charge of the actual operation, supervision, and maintenance of a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant or water distribution system and includes the person in on-site charge of a shift or period of operation during any part of the day. Operator also means any person operating an electronic control system. Such persons shall be licensed in accordance with Chapter 62-602, F.A.C.

(15) “PERMITTEE” means the person or entity to which a permit for a domestic wastewater facility is issued by the Department.

(16) “PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM” or “PWS” means a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. A PWS includes: any collection, treatment, storage, or distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system and used primarily in connection with such system; and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the operator of such system but used primarily in connection with such system. A PWS does not include any special irrigation district. A PWS is either a community water system or a non-community water system.

(17) “RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY” means a domestic wastewater treatment plant, such as a composting or blending facility, that treats residuals from other domestic wastewater treatment plants, residuals management facilities, or septage management facilities for the purpose of meeting the requirements of Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., before use or land application. Residuals management facilities may also treat domestic septage and combinations of residuals, domestic septage, food establishment sludges, wastewater removed from portable toilets, and wastes removed from holding tanks associated with boats, marinas, or on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems, before use or land application.

(18) “SUPPLIER OF WATER” means any person who owns or operates a public water system (PWS). This does not include the licensed operator unless the licensed operator is also the owner of the PWS.

(19) “TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM” or “TWS” means a non-community water system that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year.

(20) “VISIT” means an on-site examination of a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant to ensure that equipment is functioning properly, to ensure that chemical supplies are sufficient, and to record the quantity or quality of wastewater or drinking water being treated and other relevant information.

(21) “WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM” means those components of a regulated public water system used in conveying water for human consumption from the

water treatment plant to the consumer's property, including pipes, tanks, pumps, and other constructed conveyances.

(22) "WATER TREATMENT PLANT" means those components of a public water system used in collection, treatment, and storage of water for human consumption, whether or not such components are under the control of the operator of such system.

(23) "WHOLESALE SYSTEM" means a public water system that treats source water as necessary to produce finished water and then delivers some or all of that finished water to another public water system. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems. Specific Authority 403.869, 403.88(4) FS. Law Implemented 403.182, 403.852, 403.862, 403.866 FS. History – New 10-15-07.

62-699.310 Classification and Staffing of Domestic Wastewater or Water Treatment Plants and Water Distribution Systems.

This section applies to all domestic wastewater treatment plant permittees or suppliers of water except suppliers of water who own or operate a transient non-community water system serving only businesses other than public food service establishments and using only ground water as a source of supply. Licensed operators are not required for transient non-community water systems serving only businesses other than public food service establishments and using only ground water as a source of supply.

(1) Domestic wastewater treatment plant permittees and suppliers of water shall employ only persons appropriately licensed under Chapter 62-602, F.A.C., to be in on-site charge of the operation, supervision, or maintenance of a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant during any part of any day. Beginning May 1, 2011, suppliers of water shall employ only persons appropriately licensed under Chapter 62-602, F.A.C., to be in on-site charge of any water distribution system operation or maintenance activity that may affect water quality or quantity and that is listed in Footnote 1 under the tables in subparagraphs 62-699.310(2)(f)1. and 2., F.A.C.

(2) Permittees and suppliers of water shall employ licensed operators on-site at their domestic wastewater or water treatment plant(s) to fulfill the time and visit requirements specified in paragraphs (a) through (e) below. Beginning May 1, 2011, suppliers of water shall employ licensed operators to staff their water distribution system as specified in paragraph (f) below.

(a) Classification and Staffing Requirements for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plants Other than Those Discussed Separately in paragraphs (b) through (d) below. All flow values used in this paragraph refer to the permitted capacity of the domestic wastewater treatment plant.

1. Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Category I				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Processes to meet permit limits for total nitrogen with or without filtration; processes to meet permit limits for total phosphorus with or without filtration; or membrane processes, including microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, reverse osmosis, and membrane bioreactors.	3.0 MGD and above Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.	0.5 MGD up to 3.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.	0.1 MGD up to 0.5 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	Not Applicable
			0.05 MGD up to 0.1 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	
			Less than 0.05 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit each weekend.	
			For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.	

2. Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Category II				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Activated sludge processes, except extended aeration, with or without filtration.	<p>5.0 MGD and above</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.</p>	<p>1.0 MGD up to 5.0 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.</p>	<p>0.25 MGD up to 1.0 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>0.1 MGD up to 0.25 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>Less than 0.1 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1/2 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit each weekend.</p> <hr/> <p>For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.</p>	Not Applicable

3. Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Category III				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Extended aeration, including oxidation ditches, with or without filtration.	8.0 MGD and above Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.	2.0 MGD up to 8.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.	0.5 MGD up to 2.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	10,000 GPD up to 25,000 GPD Staffing by Class D or higher operator: 3 visits/week on nonconsecutive days for a total of 1 1/2 hours/week.
			0.25 MGD up to 0.5 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit each weekend.	2,000 up to 10,000 GPD Staffing by Class D or higher operator: 2 visits/week on nonconsecutive days for a total of 1 hour/week. There shall be no more than 5 days between the last visit in one week and the first visit in the next week.
			25,000 GPD up to 0.25 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1/2 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit each weekend.	For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class D or higher.
			For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.	

4. Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Category IV				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Either of the following processes with or without filtration: trickling filters or rotating biological contactors.	10 MGD and above	3.0 MGD up to 10 MGD	2.0 MGD up to 3.0 MGD	2,000 up to 25,000 GPD
	Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.	Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.	Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	Staffing by Class D or higher operator: 2 visits/week on nonconsecutive days for a total of 1 hour/week. There shall be no more than 5 days between the last visit in one week and the first visit in the next week. The lead/chief operator must be Class D or higher.
			0.75 MGD up to 2.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	
			25,000 GPD up to 0.75 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1/2 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit each weekend.	
				For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.

(b) Staffing Requirements for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plants that Provide Reclaimed Water to a Reuse System Permitted Under Part III of Chapter 62-610, F.A.C.

1. The plant category shall be established in accordance with paragraph (a) above.

2. Additional minimum staffing requirements are provided in subsections 62-610.462(2) and (3), F.A.C., which shall be used in conjunction with the requirements in paragraph (a) above, with the most stringent requirements governing. Reductions in staffing requirements below the minimum established in subsections 62-610.462(2) and (3), F.A.C., shall not be allowed.

(c) Staffing Requirements for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plants that Provide Reclaimed Water to a Reuse System Permitted Under Part V of Chapter 62-610, F.A.C.

1. The plant category shall be established in accordance with paragraph (a) above.

2. Additional minimum staffing requirements are provided in subsections 62-610.567(3), (4), and (5), F.A.C., which shall be used in conjunction with the requirements in paragraph (a) above, with the most stringent requirements governing. Reductions in staffing requirements below the minimum established in subsections 62-610.567(3), (4), and (5), F.A.C., shall not be allowed.

(d) Staffing Requirements for Residuals Management Facilities. Staffing requirements are provided in paragraph 62-640.880(2)(i), F.A.C.

(e) Classification and Staffing Requirements for Water Treatment Plants. All flow values used in this paragraph refer to the permitted maximum-day operating capacity of the water treatment plant.

1. Water Treatment Plant Category I				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Conventional filtration (coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration); direct filtration, (coagulation and filtration); or lime softening.	5.0 MGD and above Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.	1.0 MGD up to 5.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.	0.3 MGD up to 1.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	Not Applicable
			0.1 MGD up to 0.3 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	
			Less than 0.1 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 2 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	
			For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.	

2. Water Treatment Plant Category II				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Membrane processes, including electro dialysis, electro dialysis reversal, microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and reverse osmosis.	<p>6.5 MGD and above</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.</p>	<p>1.0 MGD up to 6.5 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.</p>	<p>0.5 MGD up to 1.0 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>0.1 MGD up to 0.5 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>Less than 0.1 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.</p>	Not Applicable

3. Water Treatment Plant Category III				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Activated carbon processes; diatomaceous earth filtration; ion exchange for removal of any primary contaminant; ion and manganese removal (oxidation, detention, and filtration); or slow sand filtration.	8.0 MGD and above Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 24 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class A.	2.0 MGD up to 8.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.	1.0 MGD up to 2.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day. <hr/> 0.5 MGD up to 1.0 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day. <hr/> 0.25 MGD up to 0.5 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day. <hr/> Less than 0.25 MGD Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 5 visits/week and one visit each weekend for a total of 1.8 hours/week. <hr/> For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.	Not Applicable

4. Water Treatment Plant Category IV				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Aeration for removal of any primary contaminant; alkalinity/pH adjustment; chloramination; chlorine dioxide for oxidation or disinfection; fluoridation; ion exchange for removal of any secondary contaminant, sulfide, or any unregulated contaminant; or ozonation.	Not Applicable	10 MGD and above Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 16 hours/day for 7 days/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class B or higher.	<p>5.0 MGD up to 10 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>3.0 MGD up to 5.0 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 3 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>1.0 MGD up to 3.0 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.</p> <hr/> <p>0.1 MGD up to 1.0 MGD</p> <p>Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 5 visits/week and one visit each weekend for a total of 1.2 hours/week.</p> <hr/> <p>For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.</p>	Less than 0.1 MGD Staffing by a Class D or higher operator: 3 visits/week on nonconsecutive days for a total of 0.6 hour/week. The lead/chief operator must be Class D or higher.

5. Water Treatment Plant Category V				
Treatment Process	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Aeration for removal of any secondary contaminant, sulfide, or any unregulated contaminant; chlorination; corrosion control inhibitor addition; hypochlorination; iron or manganese sequestration; or ultraviolet radiation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	5.0 MGD and above	50,000 GPD up to 0.25 MGD
			Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	Staffing by Class D or higher operator: 3 visits/week on nonconsecutive days for a total of 0.3 hour/week.
			3.0 MGD up to 5.0 MGD	Less than 50,000 GPD
			Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 1 hour/day for 5 days/week and one visit on each weekend day.	Staffing by a Class D or higher operator: 2 visits/week on nonconsecutive days for a total of 0.2 hour/week. There shall be no more than 5 days between the last visit in one week and the first visit in the next week.
			0.25 MGD up to 3.0 MGD	
			Staffing by Class C or higher operator: 5 visits/week and one visit each weekend for a total of 0.6 hour/week.	For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class D or higher.
			For all of the above plants, the lead/chief operator must be Class C or higher.	

(f) Classification and Staffing Requirements for Water Distribution Systems. For the purpose of this paragraph, the number of persons served by a water distribution system is the retail number of persons served by that individual system and excludes persons served by regulated consecutive systems receiving water from that system.

1. Water Distribution System Category I				
Distribution System	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Distribution system connected to a Class A, B, or C water treatment plant.	<p>Serving 100,000 or more persons</p> <p>Beginning May 1, 2011, the lead/chief operator must be a Level 1 water distribution system operator or a Class C or higher water treatment plant operator. Additionally, beginning May 1, 2011, a Level 3 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class C or higher water treatment plant operator shall be in on-site charge of any water distribution system operation or maintenance activity that may affect water quality or quantity and that is listed in Footnote 1 below unless the activity is being performed by a licensed underground utility and excavation contractor or licensed plumbing contractor.</p>	<p>Serving at least 10,000 persons and less than 100,000 persons</p> <p>Beginning May 1, 2011, the lead/chief operator must be a Level 2 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class C or higher water treatment plant operator. Additionally, beginning May 1, 2011, a Level 3 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class C or higher water treatment plant operator shall be in on-site charge of any water distribution system operation or maintenance activity that may affect water quality or quantity and that is listed in Footnote 1 below unless the activity is being performed by a licensed underground utility and excavation contractor or licensed plumbing contractor.</p>	<p>Serving at least 1,000 persons and less than 10,000 persons</p> <p>Beginning May 1, 2011, the lead/chief operator must be a Level 3 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class C or higher water treatment plant operator. Additionally, beginning May 1, 2011, a Level 3 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class C or higher water treatment plant operator shall be in on-site charge of any water distribution system operation or maintenance activity that may affect water quality or quantity and that is listed in Footnote 1 below unless the activity is being performed by a licensed underground utility and excavation contractor or licensed plumbing contractor.</p>	<p>Serving less than 1,000 persons²</p> <p>Beginning May 1, 2011, the lead/chief operator must be a Level 4 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class D or higher water treatment plant operator. Additionally, beginning May 1, 2011, a Level 4 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class D or higher water treatment plant operator shall be in on-site charge of any water distribution system operation or maintenance activity that may affect water quality or quantity and that is listed in Footnote 1 below unless the activity is being performed by a licensed underground utility and excavation contractor or licensed plumbing contractor.</p>

¹ The following water distribution system operation or maintenance activities may affect water quality or quantity: cleaning (swabbing, pigging, scraping, or air-purging) existing water mains; tapping, depressurizing/dewatering, or disinfecting existing water mains; dewatering, cleaning, or disinfecting existing finished-water storage tanks; and manually operating existing pumps, or adjusting existing

automatic pump controls or automatic control valves, as necessary to regulate water distribution system flows or pressures.

² For wholesale systems, a Category I water distribution system serving less than 1,000 persons shall be classified as a Level 3 water distribution system.

2. Water Distribution System Category II				
Distribution System	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Distribution system connected to a Class D water treatment plant.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Beginning May 1, 2011, the lead/chief operator must be a Level 4 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class D or higher water treatment plant operator. Additionally, beginning May 1, 2011, a Level 4 or higher water distribution system operator or a Class D or higher water treatment plant operator shall be in on-site charge of any water distribution system operation or maintenance activity that may affect water quality or quantity and that is listed in Footnote 1 below unless the activity is being performed by a licensed underground utility and excavation contractor or licensed plumbing contractor.

¹ Water distribution system operation and maintenance activities that may affect water quality or quantity include the following: cleaning (swabbing, pigging, scraping, or air-purging) existing or repaired water mains; tapping, depressurizing/dewatering, or disinfecting existing or repaired water mains; dewatering, cleaning, or disinfecting existing or repaired finished-water storage tanks; and manually operating existing pumps, or adjusting automatic pump controls or automatic control valves, as necessary to regulate water distribution system flows or pressures.

Specific Authority 403.869, 403.88(4) FS. Law Implemented 403.853(6), 403.867, 403.875(1)(f), 403.88(1), (2), (3) FS. History – New 11-17-70, Revised 10-24-74, Amended 12-25-75, 6-10-76, 1-12-81, Formerly 17-16.12 and 17-16.13, Amended 5-8-85, Formerly 17-16.370, 17-602.370, 17-699.310, Amended 10-15-07.

62-699.311 Additional Classification and Staffing Requirements.

(1) An operator meeting the lead/chief operator class for the treatment plant shall be available during all periods of domestic wastewater or water treatment plant operation, and beginning May 1, 2011, an operator meeting the lead/chief operator level for the water distribution system shall be available during all periods of distribution system operation. "Available" means able to be contacted as needed to initiate the appropriate action in a timely manner.

(2) A daily check of each Class C or D domestic wastewater or water treatment plant shall be performed by the permittee or supplier of water, or his or her representative or agent, each day the plant is in operation or 5 days per week, whichever is less. The daily check of a plant shall include on-site observation of the plant to verify that it is functioning and may include the taking of readings or samples or the performing of tests or measurements; and the daily check of a plant shall be noted in the operation and maintenance log required under paragraph 62-555.350(12)(a), F.A.C., and subsection 62-602.650(5), F.A.C. A daily visit, or daily staffing, of a plant by an appropriately licensed operator fulfills the requirement for a daily check of the plant. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as allowing anyone to perform compliance tests for domestic wastewater unless he or she meets applicable qualification requirements in subsection 62-601.400(3), F.A.C., and nothing in this subsection shall be construed as allowing anyone to perform compliance measurements for drinking water unless he or she meets applicable qualification requirements in subsection 62-550.550(1) or (2), F.A.C.

(3) A Class D operator shall be the lead/chief operator of no more than one domestic wastewater treatment plant plus one water treatment plant and distribution system except in cases where multiple plants and distribution systems are under the same ownership. In those cases where the plants and distribution systems are all under the same ownership, a Class D operator may be the lead/chief operator of as many as five domestic wastewater treatment plants, as many as five water treatment plants and distribution systems, or any combination of domestic wastewater treatment plants plus water treatment plants and distribution systems totaling five.

(4) Upon written request by the permittee or supplier of water, the Department shall approve in writing, in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b) below, reduction in staffing requirements under paragraph 62-699.310(2)(a) or (e), F.A.C., for proposed new domestic wastewater or water treatment plants that are under an electronic surveillance system, automatic control system, or electronic control system and for existing domestic wastewater or water treatment plants that are under an electronic surveillance system, automatic control system, or electronic control system and that have been in compliance with applicable water quality standards and applicable operation and maintenance requirements for the past year. However, if the Department approves a reduction in staffing requirements under this subsection and the plant's electronic surveillance system, automatic control system, or electronic control system

subsequently malfunctions or fails, the Department's approval of reduced staffing requirements shall be considered temporarily revoked while the plant's electronic surveillance system, automatic control system, or electronic control system is not functioning properly.

(a) For plants that are under an electronic surveillance system or automatic control system, staffing requirements shall be reduced as follows:

1. Staffing for a Class A plant shall be reduced to no less than staffing by a Class C or higher operator 12 hours/day for 7 days/week with the 12 hours/day of staffing occurring during the 12-hour period of greatest influent flow or water production. The class of the lead/chief operator shall not be reduced.

2. Staffing for a Class B plant shall be reduced to no less than staffing by a Class C or higher operator 8 hours/day for 7 days/week with the 8 hours/day of staffing occurring during the 8-hour period of greatest influent flow or water production. The class of the lead/chief operator shall not be reduced.

3. Staffing for a Class C plant shall be reduced to no less than the minimum staffing required for the next smaller size of Class C plant in the same treatment process category.

(b) For plants that are under an electronic control system, staffing requirements shall be reduced as follows:

1. Staffing for a Class A plant shall be reduced to no less than staffing by a Class C or higher operator 6 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit by a Class C or higher operator on each weekend day. The class of the lead/chief operator shall not be reduced.

2. Staffing for a Class B plant shall be reduced to no less than staffing by a Class C or higher operator 4 hours/day for 5 days/week and one visit by a Class C or higher operator on each weekend day. The class of the lead/chief operator shall not be reduced.

3. Staffing for a Class C plant shall be reduced to no less than the minimum staffing required for the smallest size of Class C plant in the same treatment process category.

(5) At Class B domestic wastewater or water treatment plants, the 16 hours/day of staffing shall occur during the 16-hour period, or two 8-hour periods, of greatest influent flow or water production.

(6) At Class A, B, or C domestic wastewater or water treatment plants, a licensed Class C or higher operator shall be on-site and in charge of each required shift for periods of required staffing time when the lead/chief operator is not on-site.

(7) Upon written request by the supplier of water, the Department shall approve in writing, in accordance with paragraphs (a) through (d) below, reduction in staffing requirements under subparagraph 62-699.310(2)(e)5., F.A.C., for proposed new Category V water treatment plants that are connected to the same water distribution system and for existing Category V water treatment plants that are connected to the same water distribution system and that have been in compliance with applicable water quality standards and applicable operation and maintenance requirements for the past year.

(a) The cumulative number of staffing hours for all the eligible Category V plants connected to the distribution system shall be reduced to no less than the number

of staffing hours that would be required for a single Category V plant having a permitted maximum-day operating capacity equal to the cumulative permitted maximum-day operating capacity of all the eligible Category V plants connected to the distribution system.

(b) The cumulative number of staffing hours for all the eligible Category V plants connected to the distribution system shall be divided among the eligible plants in 0.1-hour, or one-visit, increments approximately proportional to the permitted maximum-day operating capacity of each eligible plant.

(c) Staffing requirements for each eligible Category V plant shall be reduced no less than a visit on each day that staffing time or a visit is required for the plant under subparagraph 62-699.310(2)(e)5., F.A.C.

(d) The class of the lead/chief operator for each Category V plant shall not be reduced.

(8) Upon written request by the permittee or supplier of water, the Department shall approve in writing, in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) below, reduction in staffing requirements under paragraph 62-699.310(2)(a) or (e), F.A.C., for existing domestic wastewater or water treatment plants that are treating or producing less than the permitted capacity of the plant and that have been in compliance with applicable water quality standards and applicable operation and maintenance requirements for the past year.

(a) Staffing hours and visits shall be reduced to no less than the minimum staffing that would be required if the permitted capacity of a domestic wastewater treatment plant were considered to be equal to the actual treatment plant influent flow or if the permitted capacity of a water treatment plant were considered to be equal to the actual maximum-day production.

(b) The class of the lead/chief operator shall not be reduced.

(9) The classification of the operator, the number of days per week, and the number of hours per day specified in paragraphs 62-699.310(2)(a) through (e), F.A.C., are minimum requirements. The Department shall require a higher classification, more frequent visits, or more hours per day in those cases where additional staffing is necessary to ensure that a facility will comply with permit requirements or where there is a history of repeated non-compliance with permit requirements or applicable rule requirements. The Department shall provide to the permittee or supplier of water written notice of its intent to impose these more stringent requirements, setting forth with specificity the reasons that justify the Department's proposed actions. Within fourteen days of receipt of notification, the permittee or supplier of water may petition for an administrative hearing under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S.

(10) For Class A or B domestic wastewater or water treatment plants, the lead/chief operator shall be employed at the plant full time. "Full-time" shall mean at least 4 days per week, working a minimum of 35 hours per week, including leave time. Upon written request by the permittee or supplier of water and written approval by the Department, the lead/chief operator may supervise the operation of two plants located in close physical proximity or multiple plants connected to a single water distribution system or domestic wastewater collection system when such plants are under an electronic control system. The lead/chief operator's time shall be allocated between or

among the plants and electronic control system based upon the size and complexity of the plants and the availability of an electronic control system for the plants.

(11) For Class C domestic wastewater or water treatment plants, the lead/chief operator shall staff or visit the plant at least twice per month, and for Class D domestic wastewater or water treatment plants, the lead/chief operator shall visit the plant at least once per month.

(12) When a domestic wastewater or water treatment plant includes more than one treatment process, the most complex treatment process shall be used to classify the plant.

(13) Upon written request by the permittee or supplier of water, the Department shall approve in writing an interchange of weekend visits with the same number of required weekdays of staffing for domestic wastewater or water treatment plants that have greater influent flow or water production on weekends than on weekdays. The total number of days per week that a plant is staffed versus visited shall not be reduced.

(14) A licensed water treatment plant operator may serve both as an operator, or the lead/chief operator, of a water treatment plant and as an operator, or the lead/chief operator, of the water distribution system connected to that plant.

Specific Authority 403.869, 403.88(4) FS. Law Implemented 403.867, 403.88(1), (2), (3) FS. History – New 11-17-70, Revised 10-24-74, Amended 12-25-75, 6-10-76, Formerly 17-16.13, Amended 5-8-85, Formerly 17-16.375, 17-602.375, 17-699.311, Amended 7-5-01, 10-15-07.