

**Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection**

**Memorandum**



TO: District Waste Program Administrators  
District Solid Waste Engineers

FROM: Richard B. Tedder, Program Administrator  
Solid Waste Section

Chris McGuire, Senior Assistant General Counsel  
Office of General Counsel

DATE: April 20, 2005

SUBJECT: Operator training requirements for those in military service  
Memo # SWM-23.8



Rule 62-701.320(15), Florida Administrative Code, requires that operators and spotters at solid waste management facilities receive initial training and, within three years, receive additional training which is known as continuing education training. Several cases have come to our attention regarding operators who have been called to active military duty and may be having a difficult time meeting their continuing training requirements. Certainly these days it is difficult to predict with any certainty when and for how long one might be called to duty, and the Department has no desire to contribute to any hardship as a result.

It is therefore the Department's policy that trained operators and spotters may extend the due date for completion of their continuing education training by the same amount of time as they served in active military duty. For example, an operator or spotter who is called to serve 12 months in active military duty may, upon returning to work, be able to add 12 months to his or her due date for completing the continuing education training requirements.

An operator or spotter who wishes to take advantage of this policy will have to specifically request an extension and be prepared to document his or her military service. Such requests may be made to the appropriate District office of the Department, or may be made to TREEO if the training is being tracked by that organization. The contact at TREEO is Ms. Dawn Jenkins, who may be reached by phone at 352/392-9570 x127 or by Email at [djenkin@treeo.ufl.edu](mailto:djenkin@treeo.ufl.edu). While technically TREEO does not have the authority to grant waivers of Department rules, in this case we are willing to presume that TREEO is able to implement this policy correctly, and we will accede to its decisions on eligibility.