



## Florida Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation Handbook: Federal Agencies<sup>1</sup>

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There are four federal agencies that regulate solid and hazardous waste:

1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
2. The United States Coast Guard (USCG)
3. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
4. The Department of Transportation (DOT)

### What Does the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Do?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established as an independent agency in the executive branch of the U.S. government in 1970. EPA was created to regulate all aspects of the environment, especially the pollution of natural resources. EPA is empowered to fulfill its purpose through many laws. These laws include RCRA (regulating the disposal of solid and hazardous waste), CERCLA (providing for the cleanup of sites that pose a threat to human health and the environment), FIFRA (regulating the use and disposal of pesticides), EPCRA (regulating planning

for spills), the ODA (regulating disposal into U.S. oceans and territorial waters), the CAA (regulating release of pollutants into the atmosphere), and the CWA (regulating disposal into U.S. water bodies).

EPA has 10 regional offices located throughout the United States. Florida falls within the jurisdiction of the Region 4 office, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. You may wish to contact this office about permitting for disposal of waste into the ocean and other bodies of water; use, application, and disposal of pesticides; or the disposal of hazardous wastes. (Contact the Atlanta office for reporting spills at 404-562-8700 and for cleanup information at 1-800-564-7577).

### What Does the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Do?

In concert with EPA, the Coast Guard is responsible for enforcing the Ocean Dumping Act and the Clean Water Act. Anyone found in violation of these statutes by the Coast Guard may be subject to severe penalties.

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## **What Does the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Do?**

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for dredge-and-fill permitting pursuant to the Clean Water Act. EPA has the authority to veto any permit. The Corps is primarily responsible to the Secretary of the Army.

## **What Does the Department of Transportation (DOT) Do?**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) regulates all aspects of transportation, including the transportation of hazardous wastes and materials. Non-compliance with DOT regulations can result in severe penalties. DOT and EPA work together to develop laws regulating the transportation of hazardous wastes. As a result, the rules of the two agencies often refer to each other. Violating the regulations of either agency may subject you to penalties from both.

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This handbook is designed to provide an accurate, current, and authoritative summary of the principal Florida laws that directly or indirectly relate to agriculture. It should provide a basic overview of the many rights and responsibilities farmers and farmland owners have under Florida laws. The reader is provided information about these rights and responsibilities and the appropriate contacts for more detailed information. However, the reader should be aware that because the laws, administrative rulings,

and court decisions on which this publication is based are subject to constant revision, portions of this publication could become outdated at any time. Many details of cited laws are also left out due to space limitations.

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