
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification

Solid waste operator training became mandatory in New Hampshire on July 1, 1989, pursuant to New Hampshire RSA Chapter 149-M: 6. The program is regulated in accordance with Chapter Env-Sw-1600 of the New Hampshire *Solid Waste Rules*.

As the methods of solid waste disposal change and become more technologically sophisticated, and as the solid waste laws increase in number as well as complexity, the operators of solid waste facilities need to be better informed. The solid waste operator training and certification program, administered by the DES Waste Management Division, provides a reliable source of up-to-date information through education and training. This helps to assure that operators of solid waste facilities are qualified to operate and maintain the facilities at the highest level of safety and efficiency. Subsequently, this will assist in keeping operating costs down, extend the life of solid waste facilities, and most importantly, provide the greatest possible protection to the environment, public health and safety.

What's Taught?

The solid waste operator training program addresses a wide range of solid waste problems, including the handling of asbestos and other special wastes and the recognition of hazardous wastes. Also included in the program are updates on changes in legislation pertaining to solid waste disposal. Operator training provides the opportunity for open discussion about common waste management problems facilitating solutions through professional cooperation.

State Certification

Today, solid waste facilities in New Hampshire can be categorized into two general groups: collection/storage/transfer facilities; and processing and treatment facilities. Operators of incinerators are required to be familiar with the Solid Waste Rules but because of the complexities of operation of incinerators, they must be trained in the operation of the specific equipment. Generally speaking, all solid waste facilities require state-issued permits to construct and operate and they must be run by state certified operators. DES certifies operators at four levels. These levels are differentiated by education, experience and the responsibility of the position held, ranging from manager to trainee. After an applicant demonstrates the appropriate amount of education and experience, certification is obtained by participating in the prescribed training for the level of certification sought and passing a written examination.

Application and Renewal Procedures

DES announces operator training programs 30 days prior to the start of each scheduled training session. Applicants must file a written application for certification prior to the training they wish to attend and include the \$50 fee. Throughout the year, many continuing education workshops are held by DES. Often, workshops are held on-site, at a solid waste facility for a practical “hands-on” learning experience. Operators are required to attend at least one workshop annually in order to renew their certification. Workshops are offered free of charge. Certification is renewable on an annual basis with the related \$50 fee.

The program of Certification for Operators of Solid Waste facilities is an important part of the State’s overall solid waste management plan.

For More Information

For more information, contact the Solid Waste Operator Program Coordinator, DES Waste Management Division, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; or (603) 271-2925.