

Introduction

A comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA), Senate Bill No. 1192, was passed by the Florida Legislature and became effective on October 1, 1988. The SWMA is a major piece of environmental legislation which became a model for other solid waste legislation nationwide. The SWMA essentially amends Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (FS), the Environmental Control Statute, specifically Part IV, Resource Recovery and Management.

The SWMA Chapter 88-130, Laws of Florida, comprises a total of 84 Sections which through amendments, additions and deletions, provides the framework for the future management of solid waste in Florida. A fundamental provision of the Act is the establishment of the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) as the agency with primary responsibility for developing the state program, adopting all regulations and standards, permitting facilities, and managing a number of grant programs.

Some SWMA general provisions

Included in this section are some of the more general provisions of the SWMA. Other specific provisions are presented in later sections.

Recycling program

In an effort to achieve stated reduction goals, each county must establish a recycling program by July 1, 1989. All construction and demolition debris, and most newspaper, aluminum cans, glass and bottles must be separated. Separation of plastics, other metal, other paper and yard trash is also encouraged.

Recycling/reduction goals

County solid waste management programs should be designed to achieve a reduction of 30% in the weight of solid waste being sent to landfills by December 31, 1994.

Full cost accounting

Effective October 1, 1989, each county and municipality must determine the full cost for solid waste management in its service area and advise users of their portion of this cost.

Sale prohibitions

Under the SWMA, the sale of certain items is prohibited in the State of Florida:

- effective January 1, 1989 - beverage containers with detachable metal ring or tab.
- effective July 1, 1989 - separate plastic ring holding devices, unless degradable within 120 days.
- effective January 1, 1990 - use by retail outlets of plastic bags not degradable within 120 days.
- effective July 1, 1990 - plastic container products without resin labelling.
- effective October 1, 1990 - containers or packing materials manufactured with fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons.
- polystyrene foam or plastic-coated paper products, used with food for human consumption, not degradable within 12 months.

Landfilling prohibitions

The landfilling of certain items is also banned under the Act:

- effective October 1, 1988 - used oil
- effective January 1, 1989 - lead acid batteries
- effective January 1, 1990 - white goods
- effective January 1, 1992 - yard trash

Landfill operation

Effective January 1, 1990, persons who perform the duties of operator at a solid waste management facility should have completed a training course approved by the DER.

Solid Waste Management Trust Fund

The SWMA created a Trust Fund to assist counties and municipalities to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Grants and awards

Eight new grants and awards programs were established by the Act and are funded through the Trust Fund. These are:

- recycling
- education
- waste tires
- small county base grants
- litter
- used oil