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Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**INFORMATION
HSES 10-011**

DATE: September 21, 2010

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
ATTN: Environmental Health and Engineering Directors

THROUGH: Lisa Conti, D.V.M., M.P.H., Dipl. ACVPM, Director
Division of Environmental Health *LC*

FROM: *Gerald Briggs*
Gerald Briggs, Chief,
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs

SUBJECT: Updates to the Accelerated Certification Training

This memorandum provides information on the recently revised Accelerated Certification Training (ACT). Recent program evaluation results indicate a gap between the instructional material of the ACT as currently structured and the effectiveness with which the concepts presented at the training are applied and implemented by county health department (CHD) program staff. To improve the effectiveness of future trainings and close this gap, the Bureau has revised the instructional material.

Input for the revisions was requested and obtained from the County Health Department Environmental Health Advisory Group. Similarly and specifically related to the training's hands-on demonstrations at the training center, input was requested and received from the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA).

The revised training will closely track with the onsite sewage system permitting processes CHDs are required to implement. Previously at the training, only a brief classroom presentation and field discussion on the site evaluation and final construction system inspection process was provided. CHD environmental health directors or program supervisors were expected to conduct the field standardizations on site evaluations and final construction inspections. The revised training will now include detailed field standardization exercises. The revised training will limit classroom instructional time spent to a maximum of six hours per day, considered to be optimal to an effective learning process. The revised training remains applicable to the master contractor education program, as the core master septic tank contractor materials have not changed. The new training is expected to result in greater programmatic consistency across the State.

The ACT consists of three classes provided at the FOWA training center, presented over the course of four and one-half days, which will be repeated a minimum of four times per year.



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The new training provides educational instruction in the following areas:

- I. Onsite Wastewater Concepts Materials Regulations and the Application Process - Master Contractor Part I (Day 1).
- II. Introduction to Florida Soils and the Site Evaluation Process - Master Contractor Part II (Day 2 and 3)
- III. Onsite System Construction Permits and Inspections - Master Contractor Part III (Day 4 and one-half of day 5)

End-of-class reviews will be conducted after each day of class and the State Certification/Master Contractor Examinations will be given on days 1, 3 and 5.

Examinations will consist of 50 questions, both multiple choice and true/false. A participant taking the examinations will be allowed one hour and twenty minutes to complete each exam. Examinations will be graded when completed by the participant; 70% is the passing score. Those participants who do not pass the examination will be given the opportunity to review their examinations. A second examination will be offered after the review period. A participant who does not achieve a score of 70% on this second examination will be required to retake the class. If a participant elects to not retake the exam at this time, they must retake the course. Examination time does not qualify for continuing education.

To search or download a copy of the ACT materials, please go to the Bureau's web site located at: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/ostds/acceltraining/accelcertrain.htm>

Please direct any questions to Ed Barranco at (850) 245-4092.