

Guidance Document Certified Landfill Operators (effective July 1, 1992)

Legal Authority: O.C. G. A. 12-8-24.-1.

(a) After July 1, 1992, no person shall perform the duties of a municipal solid waste disposal facility operator or without being duly certified under this code section.

(b) After July 1, 1992, no municipal solid waste disposal facility shall be operated in Georgia unless the operator is certified under this code section. All inspectors of municipal solid waste disposal facilities shall be certified to inspect the same.

(f) Upon application, a certificate may be issued without examination in a comparable classification to any person who holds a valid current certificate in any state, territory, or possession of the United States or any other country, provided that the requirements for certification of operators under which the person's certificate was issued do not conflict with this part and are of a standard not longer than that specified by regulations adopted under this part and provided, further, that reciprocal privileges are granted to certified operators of this state.

O.C.G.A. 12-8-22

(21.) "Operator" means the person stationed on the site who is in responsible charge of and has direct supervision of daily field operations of a municipal solid waste disposal facility to ensure that the facility operates in compliance with the permit.

Rules:

391-3-4-.07(3) Landfill Design and Operations. Amended

(n) Supervision: the disposal site shall be under the supervision of an operator who is present at all times during operation and who is properly trained in the operation of landfills and the implementation of Design and Operational Plans and who, if the facility is a municipal solid waste disposal facility, is certified in accordance with O.C.G.A. 12-8-24-. 1 and these Rules.

391-3-4-.18(2) Operator Certification. Amended

(c) A Certified Landfill Operator must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Graduate of high school or an accredited GED Program. and have worked at a landfill in Georgia for at least six months.

or

2. To conduct landfill inspections, be employed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and required by their job descriptions to conduct landfill inspections; and

3. Must have successfully completed the Landfill Certification Training Course and examination endorse by the Division.

(d) Upon application, a certification may be issued without examination. in a comparable classification, to any person who holds a certificate in any state, territory, or possession of the United States or any country, provided that the requirements for certification of operators under which the person's certificate was issued do not conflict with this Rule and are of a standard not lower than that specified by this Rule; and provided further that reciprocal privileges are granted to certified operators of this State.

(e) The Director may investigate the actions of any operator and may revoke or suspend the certificate of an operator, following a hearing conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act", when it is found that the operator has practiced fraud or deception; that reasonable care, judgment, or the application of his

knowledge or ability was not used in the performance of his duties; or that the operator is incompetent or unable to perform his duties properly.
(f) The Director shall include, as a condition in a permit issued, a requirement that the municipal solid waste disposal facility operator be duly certified in accordance with this Rule.

Guidance

I. Minimum Qualifications for Certification

1. Applicants must submit a completed application for final disposition as to the eligibility for certification.
2. Applicants must be graduates of high school or an accredited GED program.
3. Applicants must have at least six months experience working at landfills in Georgia.
4. Persons employed by the State of Georgia for landfill inspection are eligible for certification.
5. Upon application, a certificate may be issued to persons holding valid current certificates in other jurisdictions, under reciprocity with the Act and Rules. The applicant must have six months experience working at a landfill in Georgia and may be required to attend the certification course, or a portion thereof, as deemed necessary by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

II. Certification

1. Applicants who meet minimum qualifications and who successfully complete the training course and examination where required, and who meet the definition of an operator, will be issued a Landfill Operator Certification Certificate.
2. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements may attend, on a space available basis, and upon successful completion of the training course and examination, will receive a Certificate of Completion.

III. Certified Operator Training

In Georgia the operator training course is taught twice a year, classroom space is limited; therefore, applicants will be accepted for the landfill operator certification training course according to the following priority list:

1. operators;
2. inspectors;
3. operators' supervisors;
4. inspectors' supervisors; and
5. others on a space available basis.

IV. Compliance with O.C.G.A. 12-8-22.(21) and Rules: 391-3-4-.07(3)(N)

1. A certified operator must be present, on site, at all times during operating hours.
2. The operator must be in responsible charge and have direct supervision of daily field operations at the site.
3. The operator must be capable of understanding and implementing the Design and Operational Plan.

It is recommended that each municipal solid waste disposal facility have more than one certified operator.

Applications to attend the landfill operator certification training course and applications for landfill operator certification are available from Lindsey Garcia, GA EPD, at (404) 362-4520 or the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, The University of Georgia, 1197 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, Georgia 30602-3603, 1-800-884-1381 or (706) 542-2134 – phone, (706) 542-6596 – fax. Additional information on the Landfill Operator's Certification Training Course can be found on-line at the Internet home page of the The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education, at www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/

If you need to verify your number of landfill operator certification hours please contact:
Stephanie Hubbard Telephone: (770) 822-9308
SWANA Georgia Chapter FAX: (770) 338-2735
E-Mail: hubb92@bellsouth.net

All future updates to your files should be done through Stephanie Hubbard.

Any questions concerning the program or comments should be directed to:
Lindsey Garcia Telephone: (404) 362-4520
Georgia EPD FAX: (404) 362-2693
Solid Waste Management Program E-Mail: Lindsey_Garcia@dnr.state.ga.us
4244 International Parkway, Suite 104
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

(updated April 3, 2008)