**Sarasota County**

**Standard Operating Procedure**

Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizer

**PART III.A.6**

**NPDES WRITTEN PLAN FOR REDUCING THE USE, PROPER APPLICATION AND STORAGE OF PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, AND FERTILIZER**

**INTRODUCTION**

To be compliant with Part III.A.6, Sarasota County’s Phase I NPDES MS4 permit, the following standard operating procedure for the application of the pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer has been developed. The intention of these procedures is to reduce pollutant discharges to the MS4.

- **PART III.A.6 PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, AND FERTILIZER APPLICATION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**NPDES MS4 PERMIT REQUIREMENT**

The Phase I NPDES MS4 Permit states:

- Continue to require proper certification and licensing by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for all applicators contracted to apply pesticides or herbicides on permittee-owned property, as well as any permittee personnel employed in the application of these products.
- Maintain a list of the permittee personnel applicators and contracted commercial applicators of pesticides and herbicides who are FDACS certified/licensed.
- Annually review (and revise, as needed) and implement the permittees written standardized procedures to minimize its use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on public property and to properly apply, store, and mix these products.

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

- Continue to follow procedures outlined in the county’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guidelines, where feasible, reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer.
- Continue to accomplish this through personnel training and certification regarding the proper use of equipment and chemicals.
- Continue to require all county and contract personnel involved in the chemical weed and grass control program to be competent, able, and knowledgeable to implement a safe and effective program and have the necessary training and certifications regarding the proper use of equipment and disposal of chemicals.
- Require proper certification and licensing from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for all personnel and contractors applying pesticides or herbicides on county property or rights-of-way.
- By January 1, 2014, all personnel applying fertilizer will be trained and certified through the Green Industry (GI) BMP Program and FDACS.
- By January 1, 2014, the county shall only contract commercial applicators of fertilizer who have been trained through the GI BMP Program and have obtained a limited certification for urban landscape commercial fertilizer application under Section 482.1562, F.S.

The following documentation will be used to complete the annual report:
• A list of the permittee personnel applicators and contracted commercial applicators of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers who are FDACS certified / licensed, along with documentation of the proper FDACS certificates and/or licenses.
• A list of personnel and contractors who have been trained through the GI BMP Program.