



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are pleased to send to you our fertilizer registration kit which includes the fertilizer law and forms necessary to become a Florida Fertilizer Licensee. Since you plan to market fertilizer in this state, we suggest you become thoroughly familiar with the requirements of Florida's Fertilizer Law, Chapter 576 Florida Statutes. There are several steps in the registration process which must be completed before your company will be able to market fertilizer in Florida.

Step #1 - A person whose name appears on a fertilizer label and who guarantees a fertilizer may not distribute that fertilizer to a non licensee until a license to distribute has been obtained by that person from the department upon payment fee of \$200.00. Complete the Application for Fertilizer License from DACS 13222 accompanied with a check or money order in the amount of \$200.00 and mail to the address printed on the form for processing. All Fertilizer Licenses expire June 30 of each year, **(See sections 576.021 and 576.045)**.

Step #2 - Complete Fertilizer Form DACS 13241 to report and pay inspection fees on a monthly basis for the preceding month fertilizer tonnage sales. The fees are \$1.00 per ton for mixed fertilizer and fertilizer materials, including an additional 50 cents per ton if the fertilizer contains nitrogen or phosphate. For example, a 10-10-10 grade of fertilizer would be \$1.50 per ton. Liming material is 30 cents per ton **(see section 576.041)**.

Step #3 - In order to guarantee payment and facilitate the collection of inspection fees, the applicant for a license to distribute fertilizer shall post a Surety Bond or post a Certificate of Deposit of not less than \$1,000.00, **(See section 576.041(6))**.

Option #1 - An Applicant may take the Fertilizer Dealers Bond, Fertilizer Form DACS 13229 to their insurance company to obtain a continuous surety bond from a corporate surety company in the amount of \$1,000.00. The original bond and power of attorney must be forwarded to our office for processing with the corporate surety seal affixed/printed/indented to the bond form.

Licensing/Registration

Option #2 - If the applicant elects not to purchase a surety bond, the applicant has the option of purchasing a \$1,000.00 Certificate of Deposit from a recognized financial institution within the United States. The name on the CD will be the same name of the firm/guarantor appearing on the fertilizer label. The applicant is required to complete the Assignment of Certificate of Deposit form along with their bank representative at the time the CD is purchased. The applicant retains the original Certificate of Deposit and draws the interest from the bank. The original Assignment of Certificate and copy of the Certificate of Deposit shall be forwarded to our office for processing.

Step #4 – The State of Florida requires registration of Specialty Brand Fertilizers. Specialty Fertilizer is defined in 576.011(36). The registration fee is \$200 for each Specialty Fertilizer product and grade offered for sale and distributed in the State of Florida. Fertilizer Forms DACS 13220 Cover Page (Part I) and Fertilizer Form DACS 13220 List of Requested Registrations (Part II), including the Application for Registration of Specialty Fertilizer and proposed label will be submitted to our office at the time the applicant is applying for a license. All specialty fertilizer registrations expire on June 30 of each year, **(See section 576.021 and 576.045)**.

The Florida Commercial Fertilizer Law requires specific labeling requirements for the nitrogen breakdown, labeling secondaries and micro nutrients as to total and/or soluble, or both, depending upon the source material formulated in the products. Particular review of fertilizer rule 5E-1.003 FAC will address these issues in detail.

Upon completing the registration process and label review/approval, the department will assign a fertilizer license number (preceded by a capital F) which will be printed on all fertilizer products in close proximity to the brand or guaranteed analysis. Products found in the marketplace without a fertilizer license number are subject to enforcement action.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your business and wish you every success in this venture. If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (850) 617-7861 and/or correspond via E-Mail at William.Cox@freshfromflorida.com.

Sincerely,

ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



William R. Cox, Environmental Manager
Bureau of Compliance Monitoring