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

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August 11, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Persons Interested in Mosquito Control

**FROM:** Sarah R. Oglesby, Chief   
Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement

**SUBJECT:** Licensing Requirements for Mosquito Control Services

Mosquito control activities are divided into two groups. There is the Public Health component which involves a governmental entity (or government contracted vendors) making widespread community or municipal arthropod control applications over a large area. Then there are individuals or contractors wanting to operate on a for-hire basis that make arthropod control applications to an individual person's property or commercial properties such as hotels, resorts, etc.

Chapter 388, Florida Statutes (F.S.), strictly regulates the Public Health component, establishing districts, commissions and other governmental entities for these programs. Pest Control companies contracted to perform mosquito control activities for a government agency or mosquito control district must have a Public Health (PH) license or be operating under the direct supervision of a PH license holder.

- 5E-13.021 (21), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) Public Health Pest Control (PHPC) - a category or classification of licensure that includes private applicators, federal, state, or other governmental employees using or supervising the use of general or restricted-use pesticides in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health and nuisance importance.
- 5E-13.039 (2), F.A.C. Applicators licensed in public health pest control may directly supervise no more than 10 unlicensed employees.

Chapter 482, Florida Statutes, strictly regulates structural pest control activities which includes the performance of *any type* of pest control and the use of *any* pest control devices. This law refers to spraying residential and commercial properties as a part of normal business practices. A pest control business license with a certified operator holding the General Household Pest Control or Lawn and Ornamental Pest Control categories is required to offer services in mosquito fogging and barrier treatment services for residential or commercial properties. To qualify for a business license for these purposes, the licensee must have at least one employee who is a Florida certified operator with a category of General Household Pest Control (GHP) or Lawn and Ornamental Pest Control (L&O).

A pest control business license is also required for the install and servicing of automated mosquito control misters in, on or under any structure, lawn, or ornamental (Section 482.071, F.S.) and the service must be performed by a certified operator with the GHP or L&O categories, or a designated ID card holder.

Please contact this office if there are any additional questions.