

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.1 This update of the Solid Waste Management manual stresses operational changes brought about in waste handling practices as a result of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 (42 USC 6901) and its amendments. New sections are included on the legal implications of the act. The Military Construction Codification Act (PL 97-214) of 1982 is also discussed as it applies to recycling programs in the military.

1.1.2 This manual discusses managerial, engineering, and operational issues associated with:

- ! handling and storage of waste
- ! refuse collection
- ! transfer stations sanitary landfills
- ! volume reduction techniques
- ! resource recovery (material and/or energy)
- ! recycling centers at military bases.

Discussions are intentionally brief.

1.1.3 A serious shortage of suitable landfill sites especially near large metropolitan areas is forcing solid waste managers to look for ways to minimize the volume of buried wastes. Resource recovery, recycling compacting, incineration, and composting are examples of processes being implemented to reduce burdens on landfills. When hauling distances to landfills become excessive, transfer stations may be economically attractive.

1.1.4 The Military Construction Codification Act (PL 97-214) of 1982 provided increased incentives for recycling programs. Highly successful recycling programs already exist at several military installations. Implementation strategies for other installations are included in this document.

1.1.5 Section 4.4 on wastes requiring special handling emphasizes hospital wastes and other unique waste with specific handling and disposal requirements.

1.1.6 Section 4.5 on Hazardous Wastes relates to the impacts of hazardous materials or wastes that might enter a solid waste stream (e.g., contamination of housing wastes with hazardous household cleaning chemicals). It is not meant to be a comprehensive review of hazardous waste practices in the military.

1.1.7 Appendices provide information on:

- ! landfill permit requirements
- ! solid waste management contracts
- ! regional U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices
- ! state solid waste agencies
- ! organizations involved in recycling
- ! estimation of waste generation rates.

A list of acronyms, a glossary, and a subject index are also included.

1.2 PURPOSE. The purpose of the document is to provide technical information for personnel responsible for managing solid waste on military installations in the United States. Installations outside of the United States must abide by technical standards and practices of the host jurisdiction to ensure that environmental protection requirements are fulfilled. These requirements are set forth in status of forces agreements, treaties, and executive orders pertaining to U.S. activities overseas. Good sanitation practices are necessary at all locations regardless of regulatory requirements.

1.3 SCOPE

1.3.1 Management and technical procedures are presented as guides that will ensure:

- ! conservation of resources
- ! protection of the environment
- ! systematic collection of solid wastes
- ! efficient operation of disposal systems
- ! minimum expenditure of funds, personnel, equipment, and materials
- ! compliance with applicable regulations.

1.3.2 The sections discussing legal issues are guidelines only and based on interpretation of regulatory requirements. They are not intended to be legal advice.