




Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

DME MEMORANDUM NUMBER 20-01

DATE: August 5, 2019
TO: DISTRICT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS
FROM: Rudy Powell, Jr., P.E., Director, Office of Maintenance 
COPIES: Will Watts, Michael Soto, Kristin McCrary, Kelly Sowell
SUBJECT: Purchase of Electrolyte Drinks

District Maintenance Engineer Memo 14-01 dated July 8, 2014, is rescinded. Follow the direction provided in the attached memorandum dated June 28, 2019.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Soto at (850) 410-5725.



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To: Mark Merry, Deputy Director of Accounting and Auditing

Department of Financial Services, Bureau of Auditing

From: Will N. Watts, Chief Engineer
Department of Transportation

Date: June 28, 2019

Subject: Request for Purchase of Electrolytes

APPROVED
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING
BY: *[Signature]*
DATE: 7/8/19

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT or Department) would like to request the Department of Financial Services to consider the purchase of electrolyte drink products an allowable expense in specific conditions as defined below for Department employees within the Office of Maintenance working in the field.

FDOT is making this request to protect employees from dehydration and other heat related illnesses such as muscle cramping, stupor, heat exhaustion and, in extreme cases, stroke. Individuals suffering from heat related illnesses may inadvertently place themselves, co-workers and the traveling public in hazardous conditions. As a result the Department feels compelled to take measures to assist in the reduction of potential injury and/or death.

Upon approval by the Department of Financial Services for the purchase of electrolyte drinks, the following administrative controls will be employed by FDOT to manage use:

- **Management Approval Required:** FDOT will only distribute electrolyte drinks following a review of the local weather forecast to determine if the drinks are needed. Due to the disparity in the state the majority of the use will be during the months of May to September. However, the temperatures in the State of Florida can be highly divergent. For instance, Miami in October or April can still be very hot compared to North Florida. Management authorization will be required prior to the issuance of electrolyte drinks to any field crew by the local warehouse with a supporting justification of the weather during the day in use.
- **Limited Stocking Period:** FDOT will only provide the electrolyte drinks during months of high temperature and high humidity will be able to stock electrolyte drinks from April to October. A supply of electrolyte drinks would not be maintained outside of this timeframe.

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Electrolyte drinks would be provided by the Office of Maintenance for all employees working in the field. Employees within the Department include positions such as, but not limited to Equipment Operators, Highway Maintenance Specialists/Technicians and Field Supervisors. These employees perform the following types of duties and responsibilities operating small and medium sized equipment while performing bridge and roadway repairs; assembling and erecting highway signs; inspecting work performed by inmate crews; performing survey work and supervising crew members throughout all phases of highway maintenance operations, which often results in long periods of exposure to the extreme heat and humid conditions.

Using the criteria provided above of only providing electrolyte drink mixes to employees during periods of high temperature and humidity, FDOT estimates the annual cost of providing electrolyte drink mixes to be \$21,500 per fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If additional information is required to make a determination please contact me directly.