

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Protection Branch

**SWRC**  
**Composting Regulations in Saskatchewan**

**May 2018**

*saskatchewan.ca*



# What Regulations Apply to Composting and Composting Facilities?

- The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations, 1986 (Provincial)
- Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (Provincial)
- CCME Guidelines to Compost Quality, 2005 (Federal)
- Fertilizer Act and Regulations, 1985 (Federal)
- Local bylaws/zoning (Municipal)

# MRMR (1986)

- Regulations which all municipally owned waste disposal grounds and transfer stations are permitted under
- Incoming waste streams must consist of no more than 20% industrial waste
- Both waste disposal grounds and transfer station facilities may have composting operations if:
  - The composted operation is included in an operations plan approved by the ministry
  - The composting takes place on the property in which the WDG/TS permit is issued
  - The waste being accepted for composting does not exceed the 20% allowable industrial waste for the entire facility

# EMPA (2010)

## **Certain Facilities Requiring Permits**

### Section 2(j)

industrial waste or hazardous waste treatment facilities that treat more than 10,000 kilograms of waste per year

### Section 2(o)

any facility that temporarily stores solid waste

# EMPA (2010)

## **This does not apply to:**

### Section 3(c)

agricultural operations;

### Section 3(d)

the disposal of household waste if:

- (i) the household waste is generated by an individual who is a member of the household; and
- (ii) the household waste is disposed of on land that is owned or leased by an individual who is a member

### Section 3(e)

a facility mentioned in clause (2)(o) that is used only to temporarily store solid waste in a receptacle, bin or container that prevents waste, or any liquid in the waste, from leaving the container

# What is the difference?

EMPA	MRMR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Privately owned</li><li>• No limit on the amount of industrial waste that can be accepted</li><li>• Financial assurance required</li><li>• Operations Plan</li><li>• Emergency Response Plan</li><li>• Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan</li><li>• Engineered design</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipally owned</li><li>• Can accept no greater than 20% industrial waste</li><li>• Operations Plan</li><li>• Emergency Response Plan</li><li>• Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan</li><li>• Engineered design</li></ul>

# What do I need to do to start composting?

**If all of the follow conditions are true you do not require approval from the ministry**

- Composting will take place in a bin or vessel designed for composting and no waste material will be placed on the ground
- The waste being composted is generated on the property and is not being accepted from off site sources
- The finished compost is not being sold
- All relevant local zoning/bylaws are followed

# What do I need to do to start composting?

**If you are a municipality who wishes to start composting at their existing permitted WDG/TS**

1. Contact your Environmental Protection Officer
2. Complete the Environmental Assessment Self Assessment Checklist
3. Submit a design plan for approval
4. Carry out the work as outlined in the Permit to Construct
5. Submit an updated Operations Plan for approval
6. Operate the facility as per the Operations Plan



# What do I need to do to start composting?

## **If you are a municipality who wishes to start composting at new facility**

1. Contact your Environmental Protection Officer
2. Complete the Environmental Assessment Self Assessment Checklist
3. Submit a site suitability report for approval
4. Submit a design plan for approval
5. Carry out the work as outlined in the Permit to Construct
6. Submit a request for a Permit to Operation along with the Operations Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan
7. Operate the facility as per the Permit to Operate and Operations Plan

# What do I need to do to start composting?

## **If you are a private business or organization who wishes to start composting at new facility**

1. Contact the Ministry of Environment Client Service Office to be put in touch with an Environmental Protection Officer
2. Complete the Environmental Assessment Self Assessment Checklist
3. Submit a site suitability report for approval
4. Submit a design plan and decommissioning and reclamation plan for approval
5. Provide the ministry with a financial assurance based on the cost estimates in the D&R plan
6. Carry out the work as outlined in the Permit to Construct
7. Submit a request for a Permit to Operation along with the Operations Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan
8. Operate the facility as per the Permit to Operate and Operations Plan

# Site Suitability Report

The site suitability report should describe the siting of the facility based on site information in order to determine the site-specific design requirement and protect the environment.

The report should include:

- a) A site plan that details the topography and surface water hydrology within 500 meters of the proposed site.
- b) A statement or document describing the geological and hydrogeological conditions.

# Design Plan

The report should be prepared by a person who possesses the core skills and competencies including a design that meets the applicable best practices and should:

- a) Identify the location and the relationship with host site and surrounding community.
- b) Include a site plan showing:
  - legal site boundary
  - geographical location of site access, roads, earth works, buildings, buffer zones, and infrastructure
  - hydrologic information, land use and other environmental information
  - areas designated for different waste types
- c) Include details concerning waste types and quantities for temporary storage at the transfer station.
- d) Incorporate environmental protection and control systems

# Operations Plan

**The operations manual can be seen as the instruction manual on how to run the site. Information may include:**

- What type/amount of waste is be accepted and how is it being documented?
- Where does the waste go once it is accepted?
- How is the compost processed?
- Is training or certification required?
- What happens in the event of upset conditions?
- In the event of complaints from the public how does the facility plan to manage them?
- How is testing performed? QA/QC?
- Where does the finished compost go?

# Finished Compost Requirements

Processed compost that is sold or given away is required to follow:

- CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality

These compost guidelines are based on the following four criteria for product safety:

- foreign matter
  - maturity
  - pathogens
  - trace elements.
- 
- The Fertilizer Act and Regulations

# Questions?

saskatchewan.ca