

Organic Matter Recycling Regulation Amendment – Fact Sheet

On June 9, 2016, the Ministry of Environment amended the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) with respect to larger composting facilities. In addition to meeting the requirements of the OMRR, composting facilities that meet the following criteria now also require a permit:

- process food waste or biosolids, and
- have the design capacity to produce over 5,000 tonnes or greater of compost per year.

It is estimated that this amendment will affect approximately 25 operations. Approximately 35 smaller scale composting facilities that process food waste or biosolids, and that produce less than 5000 tonnes/year, will not require a permit. Every facility, regardless of what they are composting or their production rates, must comply with OMRR.

Facilities that meet the criteria above, and that are operating under a waste stream management licence issued by a regional district, will be required to apply for a permit. In addition, regional districts may continue to issue waste stream management licences, provided that the licence conditions do not conflict with the: *Environmental Management Act*, the OMRR, or the conditions set out in the permit.

Composting facilities with a total design capacity less than 5,000 tonnes per year, or that are not processing any food wastes or biosolids will remain under the regulation and are required to comply with the OMRR. In addition, exemptions will exist if a compost facility is part of a regional district's solid waste management plan (SWMP) and has been issued an operational certificate by the ministry.

These amendments are in force as of June 9, 2016. Facilities that meet the criteria above will have 60 days to apply for a permit. The deadline to apply for a permit is August 8, 2016. Facilities will continue to be authorized under OMRR while their permit application is being adjudicated.

For more information on the OMRR or this amendment, please visit:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/recycling/organics/regulations-guidelines.

For more information on the permit application process, please visit:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/waste-discharge-authorization.