



ORGANIC MATTER RECYCLING REGULATION

SUMMER 2026 PROJECT UPDATE



Ministry of
Environment
and Parks

Table of Contents

Introduction and Purpose	2
Policy Refinements – Compost Facilities	3
Facility Enclosure: Odour Management	3
Aerobic Conditions to Mitigate Odour.....	3
Leachate Management	4
Class A Compost Quality Standards	4
Compost Feedstocks: Food Service Ware and Food Service Accessories.....	5
Registration	6
Compost Facility Registration	6
Land Application Registration	7
Policy Refinements – Biosolids	7
Mine Reclamation	7
Remediating Contaminated Sites	7
Landfills	7
Notification and Product Reports from Producers of Biosolids.....	7
Requirements for Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion	8
Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Limits.....	8
Approach for Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs).....	8
Policy Refinements – Biosolids Growing Medium (BGM).....	10
Registration for Facilities Producing BGM	10
BGM at Mine Sites	11
Restrictions on Materials that can be used to Create BGM	11
Leachate and Storage of Materials	11
Policy Refinements: Product Reports from Producers	11
Policy Refinements: Land Application Site.....	12
Storage: Short-term Site versus Storage Structure.....	12
Setbacks and Additional Restrictions Following Land Application	13
Transparency.....	13
Anticipated Timelines and Next Steps	13
Appendix A – Summary of Authorization Requirements.....	15
Appendix C – Sampling Frequencies	17
Appendix D – Setbacks: Land Application, Storage and Facility Boundaries	18

Introduction and Purpose

This document provides an update on planned amendments to the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). The OMRR regulates the production and land application of compost and biosolids and has been in force since 2002.

The Ministry of Environment and Parks (the Ministry) proposed amendments in previous publications, most recently the [2022 Project Update](#)¹ and [2018 Intentions Paper](#)². This project update clarifies anticipated timelines and refinements to policy since 2022.

While the overall policy direction and objectives remain unchanged, some policy details have been refined based on feedback from First Nations and interested parties' review of best achievable technologies, and new and evolving government priorities.

The objectives of the OMRR amendments are to:

- Better align requirements with best achievable technologies, advances in science, and evolving standards in other jurisdictions, including product quality standards;
- Support the circular economy for organics and recognize the need for composting to be operationally and economically viable;
- Protect human health and the environment and better address leachate and odour management at compost facilities;
- Clarify requirements, including alternatives to single use plastic (e.g., wood utensils) that are suitable for composting; and
- Increase transparency and enhance First Nations engagement through increased information sharing and better engagement around organic matter management in B.C.

The Ministry recognizes there are currently heightened concerns regarding the economy and affordability. The Ministry aims to strike the right balance of adopting requirements that are financially achievable for regulated parties and communities while safeguarding human health and the environment.

Policy updates for different topic areas are outlined below, including key refinements to policy since the [2022 Project Update](#). The appendices provide additional information on intended policy and requirements.

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/organic-waste/reports-and-papers/omrr-public-update-june-2022.pdf>

² https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/organic-waste/reports-and-papers/2018_omrr_intentions_paper.pdf

Policy Refinements – Compost Facilities

Facility Enclosure: Odour Management

In the 2018 Intentions Paper, the Ministry proposed enclosure requirements to better address odorous air contaminants. Specifically, the Ministry proposed that compost facilities that receive greater than 15,000 wet tonnes of feedstock and compost food waste or biosolids would be required to:

- Compost in-vessel or contain facilities and operations within fully enclosed structures, including receiving, processing and storage, and
- Use technologies such as negative pressure, biofilters, leachate collection, aeration and treatment systems, suction fans, and other emission control technologies.

Based on a review of best achievable technologies, and concerns from interested parties and partners regarding the affordability of enclosed structures, the Ministry intends to refine policy to provide more flexibility for facilities.

More specifically, the Ministry intends to require that compost facility plans demonstrate how odours would be controlled within the facility boundaries, and how odours would be managed to prevent adverse impacts (refer to Appendix A for a summary of types of plans required). Facilities would have the flexibility to choose how to comply with new requirements using a variety of tools such as biofilters, semi-permeable fabric covers, enclosed buildings, or other means, which would be outlined in guidance.

The Ministry also recognizes that the most effective approach for managing odour is prevention, as opposed to using treatment technologies. As a result, the Ministry intends for facility plans to have more focus on aeration and other processes that help prevent odours. The Ministry intends to update guidance for facilities to clarify requirements regarding odour management.

The Ministry previously proposed phasing in the enclosure requirements over a 10-year period for existing facilities and five years for new or modified facilities. As a result of refinements outlined above which provide more flexibility, the Ministry intends to phase in the requirements such that they come into force whenever a new or modified facility is required to apply for a permit, operational certificate, or registration (see Compost Facility Registration heading below).

Aerobic Conditions to Mitigate Odour

As outlined in the 2022 project update, the Ministry intends to require that compost piles be maintained in an aerobic state, until vector attraction reduction is completed, and that oxygen levels be monitored. To further provide clarity and prevent odours, the Ministry intends to require that piles be maintained at a minimum 5% oxygen or above, which is generally considered to be the minimum acceptable level of oxygen in compost piles before anaerobic conditions are formed. Facility plans also would need to outline how oxygen would be maintained at optimal levels for composting and how oxygen would be monitored.

In addition, the Ministry is intending to require that odourous feedstock such as food waste be placed into the composting process within 24 hours of receiving the waste, and that procedures and steps for promptly incorporating feedstock after receipt be included in facility plans. The Ministry intends to update guidance for compost facilities to more broadly outline requirements for odour management, including details that need to be included in facility plans.

Leachate Management

Under the current OMRR, leachate is prohibited from being discharged to the environment unless authorized by the director under the *Environmental Management Act*. There is no intended change to this requirement.

To minimize leachate production, the Ministry indicated in the 2018 Intentions Paper that the new regulation would require compost facilities to cover organic material, including finished Class A compost, in high precipitation areas from October 31-April 1. This cover requirement would also apply to the regulated products at sites other than compost facilities, except for wood waste. A high-precipitation area would be defined in the same way as in the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management.³ In addition, the definition of leachate would be clarified to include any liquid that comes into contact with any organic material (including Class A compost) must be contained and managed at the compost facility.

As outlined in the 2022 project update, the Ministry also intends to remove the current exemption from needing a leachate collection system (Section 26(4) of the OMRR) if an Environmental Impact Study indicates it is not required. Instead, the Ministry intends to require that a director's substitution would be required to eliminate the need for a leachate collection system. Under substitution powers, a director would be able to replace a regulatory requirement with an alternative requirement that offers an equivalent level of protection and meets the intent of the regulation (see 2018 Intentions Paper for more information on proposed substitution powers). The requirement to have a substitution for an alternative leachate collection system would be phased in and come into effect two years after the new regulation is adopted to provide time for facilities to upgrade and comply with the new requirements.

The Ministry also intends to require impermeable surfaces for leachate collection systems, which would need to be asphalt, concrete or another impermeable surface capable of withstanding wear and tear from normal operations, to be approved by a Director. All composting activities would be required to be carried out over an impermeable leachate containment system, including receiving feedstock, composting, screening, or storing composted product (including Class A compost), as currently required in Section 26 of the OMRR.

Class A Compost Quality Standards

In the 2018 Intentions Paper, the Ministry proposed that metal concentration limits for Class A compost

³ "High precipitation area" means an area that has, on average, precipitation of 600 mm or more in total during the period that begins on October 1 and that ends on April 30 of the next year. See the High Precipitation Areas Map Tool: [High-Risk Areas - Province of British Columbia](#)

correspond to the most stringent soil quality standards outlined in Schedule 10.1 of the OMRR. However, Schedule 10.1 criteria are soil standards for contaminated sites and may not be best suited for compost quality standards. In addition, based on input from interested parties and review of compost quality data, the Ministry has determined that certain metal limits (e.g., zinc, copper, etc.) may not be achievable for compost made from a variety of feedstocks, including food waste.

As a result, the Ministry intends to instead adopt the [Bureau de normalisation du Québec \(BNQ\) standard](#)⁴, which was developed to be protective of the environment and achievable for compost. The BNQ Class A compost quality standards are developed through comprehensive, science-based and consensus-driven processes. The BNQ standards are widely recognized across Canada and were developed in coordination with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment compost quality guidelines for greater consistency and alignment across the country.

The specific intended limits for Class A compost and other materials are presented in Appendix B.

Compost Feedstocks: Food Service Ware and Food Service Accessories

The Ministry previously indicated the intention to amend the OMRR to support implementation of the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (SUPWPR). While the SUPWPR is phasing out the use of certain single-use and plastic items in B.C., alternatives such as single-use wood utensils or fibre-based containers are growing in use.

To support the management of single-use wood or fibre-based items, the new OMRR would clarify that the category for clean and untreated wood would include other woody products, such as wood utensils, or chopsticks. The Ministry also intends to allow fibre-based items that are made only of plant material (and without any synthetic coatings, materials, or resins) to be composted under the OMRR, in addition to food-soiled paper that does not contain plastic, adhesives or synthetic coatings.

In terms of compostable plastic, as outlined in the 2022 project update, the Ministry does not intend to add this material as an allowable feedstock, since compostable plastic often does not fully compost successfully at commercial compost facilities and can result in plastic contamination. However, the Ministry intends to introduce a new director discretion to approve feedstocks not listed in the OMRR, including compostable plastic, if a facility can demonstrate its ability to successfully compost the material in a manner that avoids contamination or other adverse impacts.

The Ministry intends to develop guidance for requesting director approval of additional feedstocks, including compostable plastic.

Foreign Matter and Plastics

As outlined in the 2018 Intentions and 2022 project update, the Ministry intends to adopt requirements to better address plastic contamination in compost. More specifically for Class A compost, the ministry

⁴ <https://bnq.qc.ca/en/standardization/environment/composts.html>

intends to:

- Adopt foreign matter limits of 0.25% (by weight) for plastics and 0.5% (by weight) for all foreign matter (including plastic).
- Require that large pieces of foreign matter that are 5 cm or greater in any dimension are removed from feedstock prior to any grinding, chipping or size reduction processing.

Registration

Compost Facility Registration

As outlined in the 2018 Intentions Paper, the Ministry intends to require:

- Permits, approvals⁵ or operational certificates for compost facilities that receive greater than 15,000 wet tonnes of feedstock annually, and compost either food waste or biosolids;
- Registration for all other compost facilities (to replace current notification process) except as indicated below

Existing compost facilities that currently operate under a notification would be exempt from having to register, until such time that the operation is modified (e.g., change in facility capacity, or feedstocks accepted).

In addition, the following types of small compost facilities are intended to be exempt from registration and the regulation.

- Backyard composting if volumes of compost produced are less than 20 m³ per year, or
- Yard-waste-only facilities if volumes of compost produced are less than 100 m³ per year.

Although different types and sizes of compost facilities would require registration, the information required to be submitted, and requirements imposed on a facility are intended to be proportionate to both the risk and size of facility. For example, as outlined in Appendix A, the Ministry intends that small sized facilities would only require a 'light facility environmental management plan', as part of registration and there are a variety of exemptions for facilities that only compost yard waste.

As indicated in the 2018 Intentions Paper, compost facilities would need to notify First Nations identified by the Director who may be impacted by the facility, prior to registration. As part of the application for registration, applicants would also need to include a report summarizing feedback they heard (if any) and if and how the application has been refined to address concerns (same requirement for registrations of land applying Class A/B biosolids described in Section 2 of the 2018 Intentions Paper).

⁵ Approvals are issued under Section 15 of the *Environmental Management Act* that have a maximum duration of 15 months: [Environmental Management Act](#)

Land Application Registration

In addition, as outlined in the 2018 Intentions Paper, registration would be required for land applying Class A or B biosolids or Class B compost. The process outlined in section 2 of the 2018 intentions paper for engagement with First Nations is intended to be incorporated in the new regulation (same process as for compost facility or BGM facility registrations).

Policy Refinements – Biosolids

Mine Reclamation

To support land application on mine sites for reclamation purposes, the Ministry intends to exempt the requirement to register with the Ministry and to comply with the regulation if land application is being done in accordance with an approved reclamation plan and a *Mines Act* permit overseen by the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals. Having one ministry oversee the land application at a mine site helps streamline and improve the efficiency of the authorization process. The Ministry intends to collaborate with the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals to implement the new regulation and to develop guidance for regulated parties.

Remediating Contaminated Sites

Land applications for remediation purposes at contaminated sites are intended to be done under a waste discharge permit and not subject to registration or the regulation under the OMRR, due to the individual site-specific considerations required at these sites. Land application would need to be done in accordance with a permit, and with the Contaminated Sites Regulation, in these cases.

Landfills

The Ministry intends to exempt the use of biosolids at landfills from registration and regulation if done in accordance with the landfill's site-specific authorization (e.g., Design, Operations and Closure Plan).

Notification and Product Reports from Producers of Biosolids

In the 2018 Intentions Paper, the Ministry proposed co-registration for land application sites, meaning that both the receiving site landowner (a land applier) and the biosolids producer would need to be registrants for a given land application site. However, this can create challenges for determining which party is responsible for complying with land application related provisions, and a biosolids producer cannot control or necessarily be held accountable for actions taken by a land applier.

To improve clarity, the Ministry is intending that the land applier must obtain a registration for land application, and that the biosolids producers would need to submit a one-time notification to the Ministry if they are classifying and distributing their products under the OMRR. This would help the Ministry understand which producers are classifying products for distribution.

The biosolids producer would also need to provide a product report to the land applier and any other recipient of the classified biosolids. These product reports would also be required from Class B compost producers and are discussed in a later section of this update.

Requirements for Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion

Ministry intends to amend requirements for thermophilic aerobic digestion of Class A biosolids to align with the [US Code of Federal Regulations Title 40 Part 503](#) such that the minimum retention time would be 10 consecutive days during which the temperature would need to be maintained between 55 and 60 degrees Celsius.

Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Limits

The federal government recently adopted an interim limit for PFOS under the *Fertilizer Act* for biosolids that are imported or sold in Canada. PFOS is one of many per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) chemicals⁶ and all these PFAS chemicals are of concern.

To align with federal requirements and ensure biosolids classification criteria in B.C. align with the *Fertilizer Act* for PFOS, the Ministry intends to adopt the federal interim standard of 50 ppb for PFOS as a classification requirement for both Class A and B biosolids regardless of whether they are sold⁷. If biosolids are above that limit, they would not be considered Class A or B biosolids and could not be land applied or used to create compost or biosolids growing medium.

The sampling frequency under the new regulation would align with the federal government, which is a minimum of twice per year. See Appendix C for a summary of intended sampling frequency for different parameters and products.

Approach for Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs)

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) represent a diverse group of substances which are not currently regulated but may be considered for future regulation because they are suspected to cause harm to humans or the environment. These chemicals can be found in cosmetics, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, textiles, and industrial processes. CECs are typically substances which have been recently detected in the environment or whose impacts have only been recognized recently.

Conventional municipal sewage treatment processes are not designed to fully eliminate CECs originating from household and industrial uses. As a result, CECs can be present in wastewater and biosolids.

⁶<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/fertilizers/trade-memoranda/t-4-132-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-standard-commercial-biosolids-imported-sold-canada>

⁷ In adopting this federal limit as a classification standard, the Ministry is in no way representing that 50 ppb for PFOS is a concentration that is safe for human health or for the environment, nor is it representing that other PFAS chemicals are not of concern for environmental or human health.

Public feedback from previous engagement supported regulatory measures to address CECs while also highlighting concerns about establishing standards not yet supported by available science. In some of the responses received, concerns were expressed that expanding the monitoring requirements to include more chemicals would result in increased costs.

The Ministry will continue to monitor scientific literature on CECs and assess whether new standards should be added to the OMRR. When there are sufficient evidence-based rationale and scientific assessments for a CEC, the Ministry will consider amending the regulation to set enforceable standards for that CEC.

Enabling Powers for the Director to Require Sampling for CECs

In the [Summary of Public Input](#)⁸ on the 2016 Intentions Paper, the Ministry stated it was evaluating a requirement for wastewater treatment plants to perform periodic testing of their biosolids for select contaminants including CECs. The 2018 Intentions Paper and the 2022 Project Update provided more clarity on this proposal by signaling the Ministry's intention to enable the director to require sampling of biosolids for CECs, and that results of sampling would be made publicly available.

Currently, the approach for this policy is for the director to set requirements (e.g., which contaminants to sample for, the frequency of sampling, etc.) for individual biosolids producers on a case-by-case basis. The requirements set by the director may not be identical for every facility that generates biosolids. For example, the director's decision on which contaminants to monitor may be informed by the types of industrial sources contributing to the waste stream sent to the wastewater treatment plant.

PFAS Sampling Requirements in Biosolids

Other jurisdictions have shown success in reducing the concentration of CECs, namely PFAS, in biosolids and wastewater effluent using interim standards. Recent regulatory efforts in Michigan used interim standards on two PFAS chemicals, PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), to reduce the amount of PFAS in biosolids by using monitoring to identify wastewater treatment plants impacted by industrial sources. Michigan required industrial users to manage PFAS in the wastewater at the source before it entered the wastewater treatment plant and restricted land application of biosolids until sources were controlled. Quebec has expanded on the approach used by Michigan by testing for 11 more PFAS chemicals in addition to PFOS and PFOA. The requirements proposed by Quebec came into force in the fall of 2025.

The Ministry is intending to follow the examples from Michigan and Quebec by focusing on PFAS as a priority CEC for biosolids. The overall objective is to identify biosolids that may be impacted and work with local governments to reduce risks to human health and the environment by implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Possible measures could include using source control to prevent high concentrations of PFAS from entering the sewer system and prohibiting land application of impacted biosolids.

⁸ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/organic-waste/reports-and-papers/omrr_consultation_summary_mar_2017.pdf

More information is needed to understand the types and concentrations of PFAS in biosolids produced in B.C. The Ministry intends on using the proposed new regulatory authority for the director to require sampling of biosolids for CECs to gather the needed data.

As described above, the proposed authority of the director to require additional sampling of biosolids is expected to be issued on a case-by-case basis and, as such, the requirements may differ between individual biosolids producers. However, in response to concerns previously raised regarding increased costs for sampling, the Ministry intends on matching these new sampling requirements with those already required by the federal government under the *Fertilizers Act*. This means that biosolids producers would need to sample every six months with laboratory analysis using the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Method 1633. Although the federal government only requires the reporting of PFOS, biosolids producers can expect the director to require the reporting of all PFAS chemicals included in Method 1633. By matching these proposed requirements to those already in place, sampling costs are reduced by allowing biosolids producers to use the same sampling event to meet both sets of requirements.

Biosolids producers that are required to undergo CEC sampling requirements would be expected to make their quality reports public. After the data is collected, the Ministry intends on releasing a summary report on the findings and plans on collaborating with local governments and interested parties on potential follow up actions.

Policy Refinements – Biosolids Growing Medium (BGM)

Registration for Facilities Producing BGM

Biosolids growing medium (BGM) is comprised of Class A biosolids that are typically mixed with wood, or soil to create a growing medium with specific limits including organic matter content and nitrogen concentrations.

In the 2018 Intentions Paper, the Ministry intended to require notification for operations that produce BGM and operate for more than nine months. However, the Ministry recognizes that large BGM operations which accept more than 5 m³ of biosolids per year, but operate for less than nine months a year, can still cause adverse impacts to human health or the environment.

As a result, the Ministry intends to require that large BGM operations register with the Ministry, regardless of how long they expect to be in operation. Small BGM operations, (those which receive less than 5 m³ of biosolids per year) would not be required to submit a registration. The requirement to register would come into force two years after the regulation comes into effect.

BGM operations that are registering would need to follow the same process for engaging First Nations as compost facilities or for land application of Class A or B Biosolids or Class B compost. More specifically, the application for registration would need to include a report summarizing feedback they heard (if any) and how the application has been refined to address concerns.

As indicated in the 2022 project update, large BGM operations would also need to have an environmental management plan submitted as part of registration, which includes an operating plan (including leachate management), an odour management plan, and a closure plan.

BGM at Mine Sites

Similar to the land application requirements, BGM production at a mine site for reclamation purposes, and in accordance with an approved reclamation plan and *Mines Act* permit, would be exempt from registration with the Ministry.

Restrictions on Materials that can be used to Create BGM

The Ministry intends to require that only clean wood waste, or soil that meets the Contaminated Sites Regulation soil standards for agricultural land use can be mixed to create BGM. The Director would be able to approve additional materials for creation of BGM, if those materials will not negatively impact the environment or human health.

To prevent incorporation of potentially contaminated soil, any soil or sand from sites used for industrial and commercial purposes and activities as defined in Schedule 2 of the Contaminated Sites Regulation, must be tested to verify contaminant concentrations.

The Ministry also intends to retain the current limit in the OMRR that BGM must have a Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen of less than 0.6% by weight, and adopt the same foreign matter limits intended for Class A compost (i.e., 0.25% by weight for plastics, 0.5% by weight for all foreign matter including plastics)

Leachate and Storage of Materials

BGM operations can cause adverse impacts if piles of organic material are uncovered or leachate is improperly managed. Similar to requirements for compost facilities, all organic materials (e.g., biosolids, BGM) at BGM sites in high precipitation areas must be covered from October 31-April 1. In addition, all discharge of leachate to the environment would be prohibited unless authorized by a permit.

The Ministry intends to impose the same storage requirements at BGM sites as required at land application sites, (outlined under the heading below “Storage: Short-term Site versus Storage Structure”).

Some requirements for BGM operations are further outlined in the summary tables in the Appendices.

Policy Refinements: Product Reports from Producers

To improve transparency and information sharing, the Ministry intends to require that producers of biosolids and Class B compost provide a product report to recipients including a site owner, a land applier, or BGM operator.

The product report would need to include: the lab analysis results that were used to classify the product, the pertinent processes used and requirements met during production, and a statement verifying the classification. This would provide the information that a recipient needs to comply with the OMRR (e.g., metal concentrations to verify maximum application rates, vector attraction reduction requirements met to determine method of application, concentration of thermotolerant coliforms to determine signage and site access).

These product reports would need to be submitted to the Ministry by the land applier as part of the annual report. The Ministry intends to make these publicly available on an online map designed to provide information about land application sites and other OMRR activities as outlined below.

Policy Refinements: Land Application Site

Storage: Short-term Site versus Storage Structure

The Ministry previously proposed aligning storage requirements for biosolids, compost, and BGM with requirements for storage of agricultural by-products under the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation, which has since been replaced with the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management (AEMCode).

More specifically, the Ministry intends to require that any compost (including Class A compost), biosolids, or BGM which is stored outside in a field, must not be:

- for more than nine months;
- in any area in which there is standing water or water-saturated soil; or
- on any low-lying area of a field prone to annual seasonal flooding, during the flood season, or when flooding is imminent.

The Ministry also intends to require that

- short-term field storage is monitored at least once each week to verify compliance;
- vegetation is grown on the storage location after the field-stored materials are used either in the current or next growing season; and
- if storing more than two weeks, the storage location is not used for storing other product for at least three years.

After nine months have elapsed in the field, storage must occur in a storage structure, with a concrete, asphalt, or another impermeable surface capable of withstanding wear and tear from normal operations as approved by a Director.

Storing small volumes of Class A compost and BGM less than 20 m³ at any one time would be exempt from the above storage requirements described in this section.

For Class B compost, Class B biosolids and Class A biosolids, the short-term storage area must also be at least 30 m from any watercourse, water supply well or marine waters. See Appendix D for more information on setbacks.

Setbacks and Additional Requirements Following Land Application

The Ministry previously outlined intended setbacks in the 2018 Intentions Paper. For additional clarity, the intended setbacks for storage and land application of biosolids and compost are summarized in Appendix D.

The additional restrictions in the current OMRR regarding grazing and harvesting for Class B compost and Class B biosolids would be retained and are also summarized in Appendix D.

The ministry is intending to require that land appliers submit an annual report after land application, that includes:

- certification from a qualified professional that land application was done in accordance with the land application plan,
- the date and rate of application, and
- copies of product reports.

Transparency

The Ministry is developing an online system and interactive map that will provide access to data regarding compost facilities and land application of biosolids and Class B compost.

Information about compost facilities would include location, size of facilities, facility plans, feedstocks accepted, and sensitive receptors such as watercourses or aquifers. For land application, information would include the land application plan, product reports and sensitive receptors such as watercourses or aquifers.

Anticipated Timelines and Next Steps

The Ministry intends to recommend updates to the regulation before the end of 2026 and, if approved, to phase in the new regulations six months after, meaning the requirements would start to apply in spring 2027.

As noted in the previous sections, some requirements would be phased in over longer periods of time (e.g., requirement for existing compost facilities to register under the OMRR, which would only come into force two years after the regulation is adopted).

The Ministry would continue to engage stakeholders and First Nations and would seek input to support development and implementation of guidance.

Appendix A – Summary of Authorization Requirements

Table 1: Summary of Requirements by Facility Type and Size

Facility Type	Facility Thresholds	Environmental Management Plan Description	Type of Authorization
Exempt Compost Facilities	• Produces < 100 m³ of yard-waste-only compost per year • Produces < 20 m³ of compost per year	None	None
Small Compost Facilities	• Accepts < 15,000 wet tonnes of feedstock* per year	• Operating plan • Leachate plan • Odour plan	Registration
Medium Compost Facilities	• Accepts ≥ 15,000 wet tonnes of feedstock* per year but no food waste or biosolids	• Operating plan • Leachate plan • Odour plan • Closure plan	Registration
Large Compost Facilities	• Accepts food waste or biosolids - AND • Accepts ≥ 15,000 wet tonnes of feedstock* per year	As per Permit or Operational Certificate requirements	Permit or Operational Certificate**
Small BGM Facilities	• Accepts < 5 m³ of biosolids per year	None	None
Large BGM Facilities	• Accepts ≥ 5 m³ of biosolids per year	• Operating plan • Leachate plan • Odour plan • Closure plan	Registration
Biosolids Producer	• Distributes Class A Biosolids or Class B Biosolids	None	Notification

* Feedstock includes all organic material, including bulking agents such as wood waste.

** Permit or OC holders would not need to register but would need to comply with the rest of regulation.

Appendix B – Metal Limits in Compost, Biosolids and Biosolids Growing Medium

Table 2: Intended Metal Concentration Standards in Compost, Biosolids and Biosolids Growing Medium

Material Substance (µg/g)	Class A Biosolids And Class B Biosolids	Compost Class B	Compost Class A	Biosolids Growing Medium
Arsenic	41	41	13	13
Cadmium	15	20	3	3
Chromium	1000	1000	210	210
Cobalt	150	150	34	34
Copper	1500	1500	400	400
Lead	300	300	120	120
Mercury	4	4	0.8	0.8
Molybdenum	20	20	10	10
Nickel	180	180	62	62
Selenium	25	14	2	2
Zinc	1850	1850	700	700
Based on Canadian Standard:	BNQ 0413-400/2009 (R 2015) - Biosolids	BNQ 0413-200/2016 - Type B Compost	BNQ 0413-200/2016 - Type AA and A Compost	BNQ 0413-200/2016 - Type AA and A Compost

Appendix C – Sampling Frequencies

Table 3: Sampling Frequency for Compost, Biosolids and Biosolids Growing Medium

Product	Parameters	Grab or Composite of Multiple Grabs Per Sampling Event	Number of Sampling Events
Compost (Except Class A made with yard waste only)	Metals	Composite of 10 grabs	1 sampling event per 2,000 wet tonnes of product ²
	Thermotolerant Coliform ¹	10 Grabs	
	Foreign Matter (% FM by weight)	Composite of 10 Grabs	
	Foreign Matter (# pieces > 25 mm per 500 mL aliquot)	10 Grabs	1 sampling event per 500 wet tonnes of product ²
	Salmonella (for Class A Compost only)	10 Grabs	1 sampling event per 6,000 wet tonnes of product ²
	As requested by director (e.g., contaminants of emerging concern)	As requested	As requested
Biosolids	Metals	Composite of 10 grabs	1 sampling event per 4,000 wet tonnes of product ²
	Thermotolerant Coliform ¹	10 Grabs	
	Foreign Matter (% FM by weight)	Composite of 10 Grabs	
	Salmonella (for Class A Biosolids only)	10 Grabs	1 sampling event per 12 000 wet tonnes of Class A Biosolids ²
	Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	Composite of 10 grabs	1 sampling event every 6 months
	As requested by director (e.g., contaminants of emerging concern)	As requested	As requested
Biosolids Growing Medium³	Metals Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen Organic matter content	Composite of 10 grabs	1 sampling event per 4000 wet tonnes of product ²
	As requested by director (e.g., contaminants of emerging concern)	As requested	As requested

¹ The Ministry intends to adopt the current industry standard term **thermotolerant coliforms** instead of **fecal coliforms**. This term better reflects current scientific understanding, recognizing that some coliforms in this group occur naturally in the environment and are not associated with the fecal matter of mammals.

² A minimum of two events per year with 30 days between sampling events

Appendix D – Setbacks: Land Application, Storage and Facility Boundaries

Table 4: Summary of Land Application Setbacks Recommended for the OMRR

Product	Water supply wells and Watercourses which are also a drinking water source	Watercourses (including Marine Waters)	Dwellings, or Boundaries of residential or recreational zoned property	Major arterial roads or highways	Minor roads, (excluding logging roads)
Class A Biosolids	30 meters	30 meters	None	None	None
Class B Biosolids Class B Compost	30 meters	30 meters	30 meters	20 meters	10 meters

Note: there are no intended setbacks for land applying Class A compost in the new regulation. However, agricultural operations land applying Class A compost are subject to setbacks for nutrient sources in the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management.

Table 5: Summary of Setbacks for Storage Other than at a Compost Facility or BGM Facility

Type of Storage	Product	Water supply wells and Watercourses which are also a drinking water source	Watercourses (including Marine Waters)
Short-term field storage (maximum 9 months)	Class A Biosolids	30 meters	30 meters
	Class B Compost and Class B Biosolids	30 meters	30 meters
Storage in Structure (impermeable surface)	Class A Biosolids	30 meters	15 meters
	Class B Compost and Class B Biosolids	30 meters	15 meters

Note: there are no intended setbacks for storing Class A compost in the new regulation. However, agricultural operations land applying Class A compost are subject to setbacks for nutrient sources in the [Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management](#).

Table 6: Summary of Required Waiting Times After Land Application of Biosolids and Class B Compost

Product	Domestic Animal Grazing	Harvesting Crops When The Food Is <u>Above</u> The Surface	Harvesting Crops When The Food Is <u>Below</u> The Surface
Class A Biosolids	None	None	None
Class B Compost and Class B Biosolids When thermotolerant coliforms are < 1000 MPN	None	None	None
Class B Compost and Class B Biosolids When thermotolerant coliforms are > 1000 MPN	Restricted for 60 days after application and Signage is required ¹	Restricted for 18 months after application and Signage is required ¹	Restricted for 38 months after application and Signage is required ¹

¹ Signage must be visible for 38 months after the most recent application

Table 7: Summary of Setbacks for Organic Material on Impermeable Surfaces at Compost and BGM Facilities

Facility	Product or organic material	Water supply wells and Watercourses which are also a drinking water source	Watercourses (including Marine Waters)
Compost Facility All activities except storage of graded material	All ungraded organic material	30 meters	30 meters
Compost Facility Storage of graded material	Class A Compost BGM Class A Biosolids Class B Compost, and Class B Biosolids	30 meters	15 meters
BGM Facility* All activities	Class A Biosolids Class B Compost, and Class B Biosolids	30 meters	15 meters

*Processing, including storage, at a BGM Facility may be conducted on land without an impermeable surface, with a setback of 30 meters from water supply wells and watercourses for a maximum of 9 months.