
TO: Licensed Producers

DATE: July 19, 2018

RE: Notification of Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Product under the Recycling Regulation

Background

Under the British Columbia [Recycling Regulation](#) (Regulation), in order to sell or distribute products with packaging and/or distribute paper that makes its way into the residential waste stream (e.g. curbside “Blue Box”) in British Columbia, Producers must have an approved Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Plan. However, Producers may appoint an agency with an approved plan to carry out its duties under an EPR.

A Producer is defined in the Regulation as the first business that:

1. Manufactures a product/material and sells or distributes it in BC under its own brand;
2. Owns a trademark under which a product/material is sold or distributed in BC; or
3. Imports a product/material into BC for sale or distribution.

[Schedule 5](#) of the Regulation defines Packaging and Paper Products (PPP). Examples of materials included are: take-out food containers; flyers; financial statements; pamphlets; letters; receipts; tags; cardboard and boxboard packaging; plastic wrap; glass or plastic containers; foam trays; tin cans; and plastic or paper bags (Please note that this does NOT include material that ends up in the Institutional, Commercial or Industrial waste stream).

You can find further information regarding Extended Producer Responsibility in BC and the Packaging and Paper Products category on the Ministry’s website here: [Product Stewardship - Recycling](#).

Recycle BC

Although other options do exist to ensure regulatory compliance, most Producers in BC have chosen to appoint [Recycle BC](#) (formerly Multi-Material BC), a not-for-profit organization representing numerous PPP Producers, which has an approved EPR plan for residential PPP materials. Recycle BC’s program went into implementation on May 19, 2014.

[Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance](#) (CSSA) is a national not-for-profit organization that provides centralized shared services to PPP stewardship programs across Canada, including Recycle BC. This organization collects and verifies data submitted by Producers to stewardship agencies; in British Columbia, CSSA collects data from, and provides steward services to, PPP Producers for Recycle BC.

For specifics regarding the Recycle BC program’s operational details and business-to-business negotiation, please refer to [Recycle BC](#). Recycle BC has worked collaboratively with many stewards to help them determine how best to discharge their obligations. For further information please contact:

David West,
National Steward Services Representative
dwest@cssalliance.ca or 1-855-354-2772, ex. 129

Tamara Burns,
VP Supply Chain, Recycle BC:
tburns@recyclebc.ca or 1-778-588-9506

Exemptions

Under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Small Business Policy, an exemption is granted if a Producer meets **any one** of the following four criteria:

- Generates under one million dollars in annual revenues in BC.
- Generates under one tonne of packaging and paper products supplied to BC residents.
- Operates as a single point of retail sale (excluding online retail) and is not supplied by or operated as part of franchise, a chain or under a banner.
- Is a registered charity.

If you anticipate that the amount of material your organization is obligated for is between one and five tonnes, the following may also apply. Recycle BC provides small-to-medium-sized businesses the option of an annual flat fee if the business is a low-volume Producer of packaging and paper product. Businesses producing between one and five tonnes can pay a pre-determined recycling fee, saving the administrative costs of detailed reporting. I believe the fee breakdown is as below; Recycle BC will be able to confirm whether this is correct and also whether this applies to your organization.

	Production	Flat fee
Recycle BC tonnage categories	0-1 tonne	\$0
	1-2.5 tonnes	\$600
	2.5-5 tonnes	\$1,500

Compliance

It is the Ministry's intention to ensure that Producers fulfil their obligation and fully comply with the Recycling Regulation. Ministry enforcement responses are guided by the Ministry's Compliance and Enforcement Policy which can be found on the Ministry's website here: [Compliance and Enforcement Actions](#).

From the Ministry's perspective, a Producer is in compliance with the regulatory requirements for PPP once:

- they have an approved EPR Plan; or
- they have a finalized agreement in place with an agency that has an approved Plan (in this case the stewardship agency is Recycle BC); or
- Recycle BC has confirmed the organization's status as a low volume Producer, and necessary reporting and/or payments have been completed; or
- Recycle BC has confirmed that the organization is not obligated

For further information please contact:

Louise LeBoutillier, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Lead on Compliance for Packaging and Paper Products):
Louise.LeBoutillier@gov.bc.ca, or 1-250-356-5413