



## Georgia Environmental Protection Division Waste Reduction Unit

### Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) V Summary

**Effective: Sept. 15, 2008**

#### **Does this apply to me?**

This action may potentially affect procuring agencies under RCRA section 6002 that purchase compost and/or fertilizers made from recovered organic materials. Section 6002 defines procuring agencies to include: (1) Any federal agency; (2) any state or local agency using appropriated federal funds for procurement; or (3) any contractors of these agencies who are procuring these items for work they perform under the contract (see RCRA section 1004(17)). The requirements of section 6002 apply to these procuring agencies only when the agencies procure designated items whose price exceeds \$10,000 or when the quantity of the item purchased in the previous year exceeded \$10,000.

#### **Definitions**

- *Recovered organic materials* include, but are not limited to, yard waste, food waste, manure and biosolids.
- *Recovered materials* means waste materials and byproducts which have been recovered or diverted from solid waste, but the term does not include those materials and byproducts generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.
- *Mature compost* is a thermophilic converted product with high humus content which can be used as a soil amendment and to prevent or remediate pollutants in soil, air and stormwater runoff.

#### **Recommendations**

- General recommendations for definitions, specifications, and affirmative procurement programs may be found in the May 1, 1995 RMAN (60 FR 21386).
- EPA further recommends that those procuring agencies that have an adequate volume of organic materials, as well as sufficient space for composting should implement a composting system to produce compost from these materials to meet their landscaping and other needs.

#### **Applications for compost**

- Landscaping
- Mulch under trees and shrubs
- Erosion control
- Soil reclamation
- Seeding of grass or plants on roadsides and embankments

#### **Specifications for compost**

- Procuring agencies should avoid specifications that may result in unintentional barriers to purchasing designated items, such as packaging, color or cosmetic requirements that have no bearing on the item's functionality or performance, but that might prevent its purchase with the highest percentage of recovered materials practical.
- EPA recommends that procuring agencies ensure there is no language in their specifications relating to landscaping, soil amendments, erosion control, or soil reclamation that would preclude or discourage the use of compost made from recovered organic materials.
- EPA recommends that procuring agencies refer to the following specifications when purchasing compost made from recovered organic materials. The U.S. Composting Council's Test Methods for the Examination

*This summary was compiled by GA EPD in October 2007 for reference purposes only. Please refer to the official RMAN V and CPG V documents for full guidelines.*

of Composting and Compost and Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program, which can be found at <http://www.compostingcouncil.org>.

- Procuring agencies can consider specifying STA-certified compost, especially for applications that require consistent quality.
- Section 713.05(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation's 1996 "Standard Specifications for Construction of Road and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects FP-96" specifies compost as one of the materials suitable for use in roadside revegetation projects associated with road construction. (See page 719 in <http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/design/manual/Fp96.pdf>.)
- EPA's "Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge," at 40 CFR Part 503, limit the pollutants and pathogens in biosolids. If biosolids are included as part of the compost, the processing and the product are subject to Part 503, <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/biosolids/>.
- Procuring agencies also should look at other applicable federal, state and local government regulations on the use of compost made from recovered organic materials.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) established standards for organically produced agricultural products. The NOP regulations require that agricultural products labeled as organic originate from farms or handling operations certified by a state or private entity that has been accredited by the USDA. Among other things, the regulations prohibit the use of sewage sludge (biosolids) in organic production. See <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/NOPhome.html>.
- Guidelines and lists of materials allowed and prohibited in the production, processing, and handling of organically grown products are available from the Organic Materials Review Institute, <http://www.omri.org>.

#### **Applications for fertilizer**

- Agriculture and crop production
- Landscaping
- Horticulture
- Parks and recreational facilities
- School campuses
- Golf course and turf maintenance

#### **Specifications for fertilizer**

- Biosolids can be used in the production of fertilizers made from recovered organic materials and must meet the requirements specified in 40 CFR part 503 before they may be beneficially used. See <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/biosolids/>.
- Procuring agencies also should look at other applicable federal, state and local government regulations on the use of fertilizer made from recovered organic materials.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) established standards for organically produced agricultural products. The NOP regulations require that agricultural products labeled as organic originate from farms or handling operations certified by a state or private entity that has been accredited by the USDA. Among other things, the regulations prohibit the use of sewage sludge (biosolids) in organic production. See <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/NOPhome.html>.
- Guidelines and lists of materials allowed and prohibited in the production, processing, and handling of organically grown products are available from the Organic Materials Review Institute, <http://www.omri.org>.
- EPA recommends that procuring agencies ensure there is no language in their specifications relating to landscaping, soil amendments, erosion control, or soil reclamation that would preclude or discourage the use of compost made from recovered organic materials.

#### **Supporting materials referenced in the RMAN**

- Background Document for the Final Comprehensive Guideline (CPG) V and Final Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) V
- Economic Impact Analysis for Final Comprehensive Procurement Guideline V
- Both may be found by going to <http://www.regulations.gov> and searching for Docket ID# EPA-HQ-RCRA-2003-0005.

*This summary was compiled by GA EPD in October 2007 for reference purposes only. Please refer to the official RMAN V and CPG V documents for full guidelines.*