

(2007 final version)

## Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost

These Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost are approved by the AAPFCO under the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill and in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations for Fertilizer. States proposing to adopt these Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost under their own state fertilizer law are encouraged to adopt AAPFCO's Rules and Regulations for Fertilizer, which also apply to compost, unless otherwise noted within these regulations.

Under the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ pursuant to due publication and notice of opportunity for a public hearing, the \_\_\_\_\_ has adopted the following regulations.

### 1. Definitions of Words and Terms

When used in these Rules and Regulations:

- a. "Annual Production" means the quantity of compost produced by a composting facility.
- b. "Batch" means a specified volume or quantity of compost. A batch may represent:
  - (1.) The volumetric capacity of a windrow or stockpile; or
  - (2.) A testing frequency of no less than:
    - (A) Once per quarter for a facility with an annual production of 1 – 6,250 tons of compost; or
    - (B) Once per two (2) months for a facility with an annual production of 6,251 – 17,500 tons of compost; orOnce per month for a facility with an annual production of 17,501 tons of compost and above.
- c. "Bulk" means in non-packaged form.
- d. "Compost" means a biologically stable material derived from the composting process.
- e. "Composting" means the biological decomposition of organic matter. It is accomplished by mixing and piling in such a way to promote aerobic and/or anaerobic decay. The process inhibits pathogens, viable weed seeds, and odors.
- f. "Feedstock" means source material used for the production of compost.
- g. "Lot" means an identifiable quantity of compost that can be sampled officially up to and including a freight car load or 50 tons maximum, or that amount contained in a single vehicle, or that amount delivered under a single invoice.
- h. "Quantity Statement" means net weight or net volume.

### 2. Net Weight

The label of a bulk compost must include a statement of the net weight; however, if the quantity statement is provided on a volume basis:

- a. A weight conversion shall be provided elsewhere on the product label (e.g., 2 cubic yards = 1 ton); or
- b. A weigh scale ticket shall accompany delivery and be supplied to the purchaser at time of delivery.

### 3. Product Claims

Compost shall be exempt from (cite State's Soil Amendment Law), "the State Soil Amendment Law" provided that the compost is registered as a fertilizer and also provided that the label and labeling may bear a statement that the product is intended solely to be used for one or more of the following purposes:

- a. Improves soil structure and porosity – creating a better plant root environment;
- b. Increases moisture infiltration and permeability, and reduces bulk density of heavy soils – improving moisture infiltration rates and reducing erosion and runoff;
- c. Improves the moisture holding capacity of light soils – reducing water loss and nutrient leaching, and improving moisture retention;
- d. Improves the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils;
- e. Supplies organic matter;
- f. Aids the proliferation of soil microorganisms;
- g. Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media;
- h. Encourages vigorous root growth;
- i. Allows plants to more effectively utilize nutrients, while reducing nutrient loss by leaching;
- j. Enables soils to retain nutrients longer;
- k. Contains humus – assisting in soil aggregation and making nutrients more available for plant uptake;
- l. Buffers soil pH.

#### 4. Expression of Guarantees

- a. Guarantees shall be stated on a wet basis ("as is"). However, for compost stored in environmental conditions that may result in a variable moisture content in the compost, guarantees may be determined and guaranteed at a specific moisture level, provided that the moisture value shall be stated on the label. Provided that the \_\_\_\_\_ determines the moisture level to be in excess of the stated value, the nutrient guarantees shall be adjusted accordingly.
- b. Each batch of bulk compost may be tested for nutrient content, and such test results may constitute a guarantee:
  - (1.) Except that Total Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) may be guaranteed in addition to Available Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and Total Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) may be guaranteed in addition to Soluble Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O);
  - (2.) And such test results shall accompany each batch of bulk compost.
- c. Guarantees for Total Nitrogen (N), Available Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), Total Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), Soluble Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) and Total Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) may be guaranteed in fractional units of less than one percent, regardless of whether the compost is sold as a specialty or agricultural fertilizer.

#### 5. Feedstock Statement

The label must contain a list of feedstocks from which the compost was derived.

#### 6. Sources of Nutrients

When shown on the label, the sources of nutrients shall be listed below the completed guaranteed analysis statement. The statement shall include any additional sources of nutrients that have been added to the compost.