

New composting rules became effective on June 1, 2003

The new composting rules became effective on June 1, 2003. They represent a big step forward for the development of composting in Ohio. The rules were written with a feedstockbased (waste streams) approach to provide greater flexibility to composting facilities. Accordingly, the type of feedstock determines applicable operational requirements and quality standards for the resulting compost product. The new rules expand the number of organic materials (feedstocks, bulking agents and additives) that owners and operators can accept at their facilities and provide options for new organic materials that may be suitable for composting.

A summary of the most significant changes is provided below for each of the rules. Please note that not all changes are listed. We encourage everyone to read through the entire package of rules and identify those changes that may apply to your specific facility(ies).

Summary of Changes:

OAC Rule 3745-27-40 Authorized Feedstocks, Bulking Agents, and Additives and Classification of Composting Facilities:

The rule defines the following feedstock types:

- 1. Type A Yard wastes.
- 2. Type B Plant materials, including stems, leaves, vines, or roots, from an agricultural process.
- 3. Type C Animal wastes.
- 4. Type D Raw, harvested vegetables, fruits, and grains, and incidental paper packaging.
- 5. Type D1 Processed vegetables, fruits, and grains.
- 6. Type E Processed meats excluding meats from nondomestic animals, slaughter houses and retail stores, and dairy products.
- 7. Type F Raw rendering material.
- 8. Type G Carcasses of domestic or farm animals.
- 9. Type H Carcasses of nondomestic animals.
- 10. Type I Plant or animal derived organic wastes from industrial or commercial manufacturing processes or treatment works treating domestic sewage.
- 11. Type J Mixed municipal solid waste.
- Specifies the minimum information required for the Director's approval for composting alternative materials.
- A very limited exemption for animal or crop production operations who wish to compost wastes [Type A, B, C, and D] allowed by rule at Class II and Class III composting facilities.
- A very narrow exemption that addresses business operations that wish to compost yard wastes generated while providing lawn mowing and/or landscaping services, or while mowing and landscaping their own premises.

OAC Rule 3745-27-41 Registration Requirements for Class II, III, & IV Composting Facilities:

- Broadens the function of composting registrations to provide updated information and to account for changes at the facilities. This should help inspectors to stay informed of changes at the facilities in order to properly monitor for compliance.
- Moved the location restrictions currently contained in this rule to OAC Rule 3745-27-45 (Composting Facility Operations).

OAC Rule 3745-27-42 Permit to Install Application for Class I Composting Facilities:

- Reorganized for ease of understanding. While a few requirements have been changed, the basic concepts remain the same as the previous rule.

OAC Rule 3745-27-43 Additional Criteria for Approval of Permit to Install Applications for Class I Solid Waste Composting Facilities:

- Added certain construction requirements from OAC Rule 3745-27-44. These construction specifications will serve as additional conditions of approval for the permit to install by the Director.

OAC Rule 3745-27-45 Composting Facility Operations:

- Added certain construction requirements from OAC Rule 3745-27-44 as ongoing operational conditions.
- Added a mechanism that will allow the Director to issue orders for closure of improperly registered facilities.

OAC Rule 3745-27-46 Standards for Compost Products:

- Defined methods for sample collection from piles and windrows.
- Expanded testing requirements and added concentration limits for heavy metals.
- Added testing requirements and concentration limits for organic compounds.
- Expanded testing requirements for quality parameters.
- Note: This rule does not apply to the owner or operator of a Class IV composting facility or to cured compost produced from Type A feedstocks at a Class IV composting facility.

OAC Rule 3745-27-47 Closure of Composting Facilities:

- Added alternative closure requirements, to be approved by the Director, for owners or operators who wish to simply change the classification status of the composting facility without completely closing the operation.

Summary of Changes to Class IV Requirements:

These rules continue to retain the existing requirements for Class IV (yard waste only) facilities with just a few changes. The following is a list of proposed changes affecting Class IV facilities:

- 1. The slope requirement for Class I, II, and III composting facilities will also be applied to Class IV facilities since several of these facilities have experienced problems with ponding of water at the materials placement areas of the facility.
- 2. New requirements for facility inspections by the owner or operator and use of a daily log.
- 3. Submittal of an annual summary informing the total amount of waste received each month
- 4. New closure requirements consisting of notifying the agency of when the facility is closed and removal of all wastes and materials upon closure.

Updated forms and guidance documents will be available on this site in the coming weeks. Please contact a composting specialist for assistance with updated forms.