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Product Stewardship in B.C.

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Presentation Overview

- Background on our structure and role
- Outline of the BC model and Recycling Regulation
- Regulated products
- Future of EPR in BC
- Questions

Ministry of Environment's Role

Ministry provides leadership in environmental management through:

- legislation,
- programs, and
- compliance activities.

Our Policy for Industry-led Product Stewardship

- Based on the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development's (OECD's) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model…

  "A management system based on industry and consumers taking life-cycle responsibility for the products they produce and use"

- Shift away from government-managed, taxpayer-financed waste management programs

Recycling Regulation (2004)

- Results based regulation
- Focussed on environmental outcomes
- Provides producers with flexibility to meet environmental outcomes
- Industry must consult with stakeholder on their plan
- The plan must “provide for the producer collecting and paying the costs of collecting and

The Regulation – Part 1

- Lists definitions
- Sets out duty of producer
  - Must have an approved plan (under Part 2),
  - Comply with an approved plan OR
  - Comply with Part 3 (prescriptive)
- Cascading definition of producer:

  manufacturer, seller, distributor, or importer into B.C.

The Regulation – Part 2

Lists requirements of stewardship plans (plans)

1. Collecting and paying program costs
2. Collection and management of left-over/unused products
3. Consumer access
4. Consumer awareness – plan, collection, product handling
5. Program performance and environmental impacts
6. Dispute resolution procedure
7. Eliminating/reducing environmental life-cycle impacts
8. Management in adherence to order of preference in the pollution prevention hierarchy

The Regulation – Part 2 cont.

- Pollution Prevention Hierarchy – reduce toxics and increase energy efficiency, redesign, reduce unused portions, reuse, recycle, recover material or energy or other disposal in compliance with the Act
- Focus on environmental outcomes not operations
- Sets a 75% recovery rate or any other target set by the Director or the plan
- Director approves plans

The Regulation – Part 2 cont.

Annual Reporting requirements:

1. Post on internet
2. Educational and promotional activities
3. Location of collection sites and any changes made
4. Reduction of environmental impacts and increase in recyclability
5. Management according to Pollution Prevention Hierarchy
6. Total sold, recovered and resulting recovery rate
7. Independently audited financial statements, if fee charged
8. Compare plan's performance target with actual results

The Regulation – Part 3

- Follow this Part if not submitting a stewardship plan
- Covers consumer information, collection, consumer notification by advertisement, management of collected products, reports
- Very prescriptive for example:
  - "Operate during regular business hours, 5 days per week, one day of which must be Saturday"
  - "The advertisement must have a minimum dimension of 15 cm by 10 cm and be published once per week for the first 4 consecutive weeks…"

The Regulation – Schedules

- Specific product category definitions and requirements
- Schedule 1 – Beverage Container Product Category
- Schedule 2 – Residual Product Categories

  Solvent and flammable liquids, pesticides, gasoline Pharmaceutical, oil, oil filters and containers, Paint lead acid batteries, antifreeze
- Schedule 3 – Electronic and Electrical Product Category
- Schedule 4 – Tire Product Category

Why We Do It This Way

- In line with government direction - move towards results-based legislation
- Focus on environmental outcomes not operations
- Create level playing field
- Provide flexibility in planning – one size doesn't fit all
- Ensure transparency – require public consultation and annual reports on operational and financial aspects
- Provide flexibility for producers – their design or option to follow prescriptive Part 3 section
- Ensure everyone has input through public consultation

Existing programs

Beverage Containers
Pharmaceuticals
Paint
Pesticides
Gasoline
Tires
Electronics
Used Oil, Containers and Filters
Solvents and flammable liquids

Recently launched programs

Batteries
Cell phones
Audio Visual
Thermostats
Fluorescent lamps

Upcoming programs

Large appliances
Electric/electronic tools
Automatic dispensers
Lead acid batteries
Antifreeze
Lighting Equipment
Toys
IT telecom. equipment
Monitoring/control

The future of EPR in BC

- Ministry Service Plan measure is to add two new product categories to the Recycling Regulation every three years in accordance with CCME Canada wide action plan
- Where programs exist for CCME identified product/categories, we will look to expand i.e.: residual hazardous waste
- Work with other jurisdictions to harmonize EPR programs
- Work with producers to foster design for the environment and reduce GHG emissions

Canada-Wide Action Plan

- Harmonized set of principles for EPR in Canada outlines a schedule of products to be included in EPR programs
  - Phase I (by 2015) includes:
    - Packaging and printed materials
    - Electronics and electrical products
    - Mercury-containing products (including lamps)
    - Household hazardous and special wastes, and
    - Automotive products
  - Phase II (by 2017) includes:
    - Construction and demolition materials
    - Furniture, textiles and carpets, and
    - Appliances

Packaging and Printed Paper

- Ministry Service Plan
- B.C.'s Climate Action Plan
- B.C's commitment to the CCME Canada-wide Action Plan

Packaging and Printed Paper

Definition in B.C.'s Environmental Management Act (EMA):

"packaging" means a material, substance or object that is

(a) used to protect, contain or transport a commodity or product, or

(b) attached to a commodity or product or its container for the purpose of marketing or communicating information about the commodity or product;

Printed Paper - not yet defined - newspapers, magazines etc.

Lessons Learned

- Clear roles and responsibilities are critical
- Environmental outcomes
- Flexibility - industry can efficiently manage all program components including financial, operational etc.
- Multiple programs
- Relationships/Trust
- Consultation
- Compliance and Enforcement

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For additional information on product stewardship and the Recycling Regulation visit our website at:

www.recycling.gov.bc.ca