
Composting Regulations

Presented by:

Duane Roskoskey

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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Definition of Yard Clippings

According to Section 11505(9),

"Yard clippings" means leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, or brush or tree trimmings, less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, that can be converted to compost humus. Yard clippings does not include stumps, agricultural wastes, animal waste, roots, sewage sludge, or garbage.

Composting Regulations Overview

- ▣ Local Unit of Government Regulation
 - Zoning and Planning
 - Building Codes
 - Drain Commissioner
 - Roadways
 - County Health Department
- ▣ MDA
 - Fertilizer Act
 - GAAMPS
 - On-Farm Composting
- ▣ OSHA/MIOSHA
- ▣ DEQ Regulation of Yard Clippings Composting
 - Part 115, Solid Waste Regulations
 - Part 31, Water Resources
 - Part 55. Air Quality



Composting Regulations

Local Unit of Government Regulation

❖ **Zoning/Planning Commission**

Most local units require a permit before business commences

Compatibility with surrounding community

Site design could require a licensed professional



Composting Regulations

Local Unit Regulation (con't.)

❖ **Building Codes**

Building design will require a licensed professional

Building permit and inspections will be required

❖ **Drain Commission**

Storm water runoff detention

Construction erosion control

Wetlands protection



Composting Regulations

Local Unit Regulation (con't.)

❖ roadways

Identify Spring load restrictions

Additional traffic on local roads

❖ County Health Departments

Respond to nuisance complaints (e.g. odor, noise)

Work with MDEQ to regulate facility operations



Composting Regulations

Federal/State Worker Safety Regulations

- ❖ **MIOSHA - Worker safety concerns for both compost facility operators and incoming deliveries.**
- ❖ **OSHA - Work closely with MIOSHA to observe and prevent injury.**



Composting Regulations

MDEQ Regulation of Composting - Yard Clippings

Section 21 of Part 115 regulates the composting of yard clippings under the following conditions:

- **Composted at the property where they came from.**
- **Temporarily accumulated section 11521(2)**
- **Composted at a farm section 11521(3)**
- **Composted at a registered composting facility section 11521(4)**
- **Composted and used at a licensed solid waste landfill**
- **Composted at a processing plant**
- **Composted at a site with no more than 200 cubic yards of yard clippings**
- **Anaerobic digesters**
- **Disposed of at a landfill if diseased or infested or are invasive**



Composting Regulations

Registered Composting Facilities

Composting facilities must:

- Register
- Comply with location restrictions
- Not be in violation or create a site of environmental contamination
- Not have more than 5,000 cubic yards of material on any acre of property
- Not speculatively accumulate material
- Produce finished compost with not more than 1%, by weight, of foreign matter
- Debag plastic bags by the end of each business day
- Prevent the pooling of water
- Properly manage storm water runoff
- Not attract or harbor rodents or other vectors.
- Maintain records (see operational records and volume tracker handout)



Composting Regulations

Isolation Distance Requirements

	Facility in operation before December 1, 2007	Facility in operation after December 1, 2007
Property line	50	50
Residence	200	200
Surface water	100	100
Type I or IIA water supply well	NA	2,000
Type IIB or III water supply well	NA	800
Sensitive receptor	NA	500
Groundwater	NA	4



Composting Regulations

Required Record Keeping/Reporting

- Volume of material accepted each month
- Volume of material transferred off-site each month
- Carbon-to-Nitrogen ratio of each pile
- Amount of grass and leaves in each pile
- Temperature readings
- Moisture readings
- Lab analysis of finished compost
- Yearly volume report showing volumes of compostable materials brought to site, removed from site, and on-site on a yearly basis



Composting Regulations

Suggested Testing Requirements

- pH
- Electrical Conductivity (i.e. soluble salts)
- Total N, P, K
- Magnesium
- Zinc
- Copper
- Boron
- Mercury
- Weed seed germination
- Pathogens (Fecal coliforms and Salmonella sp.), if manures were composted
- Maturity test (i.e. Solvita Test)
- Carbon to Nitrogen (C:N) ratio
- Total nutrient analysis
- Arsenic
- Sulfate
- Sodium
- Nickel
- Manganese
- Selenium
- Cadmium
- Chromium
- Lead
- Molybdenum
- Chloride
- Foreign matter content



Composting Regulations

On Farm Composting

- A farm may accept up to 5,000 cubic yards of yard clippings and does not need to register with the DEQ or MDARD
- A farm may accept over 5,000 cubic yards and be registered with MDARD if:
 - If the yard clippings are used to manage on-farm generated wastes
 - The farm operation does not accept monetary or other valuable consideration for accepting the material
- Farms that produce a finished product that is sold to a person are considered to be commercial operations that do not have nuisance protection under the Right to Farm Act.



Composting Regulations

Water Regulations

-Water Quality (Part 31 of Act 451)

- ❖ **Flood plain alteration**
- ❖ **Discharge of injurious substances into state water resources**



Composting Regulations

Air Regulations –Part 55, Air Quality

- ❖ **Rule 901 - Prohibition against releasing air contaminants that can cause:**

Injurious effects to human health or safety, animal life, plant life of significant economic value or property, or,

Unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

Composting Regulations

Production Regulations - Fertilizer Act (Michigan Dept. of Agriculture)

License is required to manufacture and distribute fertilizer, registration, inspection of materials, records, fees

However, if the material produced is claimed as compost, the fertilizer label is not needed (i.e., no nutrient claims are made)

Composting Regulations

Production Regulations - Fertilizer Act (Michigan Dept. of Agriculture)

❖ If labeled as a fertilizer, the following information must be supplied

Brand or Product name, grade

Net Weight

Guaranteed analysis including % total nitrogen, % available Phosphoric acid (P_2O_5), and % soluble potash (K_2O)

Composting Regulations

Thank you.

Duane Roskoskey

Environmental Quality Specialist

Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Phone: 517-582-3445

E-mail: RoskoskeyD@Michigan.Gov