

Nutrient Management Newsletter

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Do You Know When Your Agricultural Operation Strategy/Plan Development Certificate expires?

Its hard to believe that it's time for some consultants to start thinking about recertification!

Certification requirement for consultants came into effect September 2004. All licences and certificates issued under the Nutrient Management Act are valid for a maximum of five years. It is important to start the renewal process at least six months before your licence or certificate expires.

To renew your certificate, your current one must be in good standing, and not have been revoked or suspended. You will also need to write and pass an exam which tests practical application and theoretical information regarding NMS/Ps. Cost of taking this exam is \$150.00.

You can schedule an exam at any OMAFRA office by calling Freida Hebert at 519-826-4392 or via e-mail at freida.hebert@ontario.ca

For more information on the consultant recertification process, please see the OMAFRA website: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/consultant.htm>

Relating Disposal of Dead Farm Animals Regulation 106/09 to General Nutrient Management Regulation 267/03

How do the regulatory requirements under these two regulations work together? Here are a few items that may be of interest to nutrient management consultants and chief building officials.

In 2009, new regulations came into effect under the Nutrient Management Act regarding the management, transportation and disposal of deadstock. O. Reg. 106/09 governs the management and disposal of all species of deadstock, regardless of farm size or whether or not they have a nutrient management strategy or plan.

Regulated deadstock compost is defined in O. Reg. 267/03 as an “agricultural source material” and therefore is a prescribed material. If a farmer wished to compost their deadstock in a bin system, and use manure as a substrate, the construction of the compost bin would require a Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) under s. 11 of O. Reg. 267/03.

O. Reg. 106/09 stipulates that the only people who can transport deadstock, composting material and regulated compost on a public highway are a licensed collector or the farm operator.

SECTION 18 OF O. REG. 106/09 CONTAINS THE LAND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DEADSTOCK COMPOST.

Section 18(1)2 references a nutrient management plan, and the requirement to apply according to that plan. Nutrient management plans can be amended to include the deadstock compost. However, if there is no requirement for a nutrient management plan, then O. Reg. 106/09 specifies the application rates. If there is no other nutrient applied to that field within a 12 month period, the maximum application rate would be 9 tonnes per hectare.

If there are other nutrients applied, then the rate is based on the nitrogen and phosphorus limits outlined in O. Reg. 267/03, section 98.12(2), paragraphs 1 and 2. Other sections that would pertain to the management of deadstock compost include winter spreading restrictions (s. 48), temporary field storage sites (s. 83), and runoff management (s. 81).

New Regulatory Requirements for Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM)

On September 18, 2009, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs jointly announced new rules and guidelines for applying non-agricultural source materials (NASM) to farmland. The changes strengthen the rules and remove overlapping approval processes for farmers and generators of NASM.

The new rules establish consistent standards and requirements across the province which focus on the quality of the material being land-applied, ensuring it meets strict criteria and is beneficial to the soil. The revised regulations will cover all Ontario farms where non-agricultural source material will be applied.

The requirements take effect in a two stage process:

Stage 1 consists of general amendments that need to occur upon filing of the regulation to allow Stage 2 requirements (e.g. NASM plans, removal of nutrient management strategy requirements for off-farm generators) to be described and understood before they take effect.

Stage 2 requirements will apply on January 1, 2011. The new rules affect regulatory and approval requirements, as well as compliance and enforcement.

To view the specific regulation changes and for more information, please visit:

- www.ontario.ca/nasm-moe
- www.ontario.ca/nasm-omafra
- www.ebr.gov.on.ca (search EBR # 010-6515)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have questions? Need more information? Have a comment about what you would like to see in the next issue? Please contact your area Environmental Specialist at:

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