

Chapter 3.1. Compostable Materials Handling Operations and Facilities Regulatory Requirements

Section 17868.3. Pathogen Reduction.

(a) Compost products derived from compostable materials, that contains pathogens in amounts that exceed the maximum acceptable pathogen concentrations described in Subdivision (b) of this section shall be designated for disposal, additional processing, or other use as approved by state or federal agencies having appropriate jurisdiction.

(b) Operators that produce compost shall ensure that:

(1) The density of fecal coliform in compost, that is or has at one time been active compost, shall be less than 1,000 Most Probable Number per gram of total solids (dry weight basis), and the density of Salmonella sp. bacteria in compost shall be less than three (3) Most Probable Number per four (4) grams of total solids (dry weight basis).

(2) At enclosed or within-vessel composting process operations and facilities, active compost shall be maintained at a temperature of 55 degrees Celsius (131 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher for a pathogen reduction period of 3 days.

(A) Due to variations among enclosed and within-vessel composting system designs, including tunnels, the operator shall submit a system-specific temperature monitoring plan with the permit application to meet the requirements of Subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

(3) If the operation or facility uses a windrow composting process, active compost shall be maintained under aerobic conditions at a temperature of 55 degrees Celsius (131 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher for a pathogen reduction period of 15 days or longer. During the period when the compost is maintained at 55 degrees Celsius or higher, there shall be a minimum of five (5) turnings of the windrow.

(4) If the operation or facility uses an aerated static pile composting process, all active compost shall be covered with 6 to 12 inches of insulating material, and the active compost shall be maintained at a temperature of 55 degrees Celsius (131 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher for a pathogen reduction period of 3 days.

(c) Alternative methods of compliance to meet the requirements of Subdivision (b) of this section may be approved by the EA if the EA determines that the alternative method will provide equivalent pathogen reduction.

(d) Compost operations and facilities shall be monitored as follows to ensure that the standards in Subdivision (b) of this section are met:

(1) Each day during the pathogen reduction period, at least one temperature reading shall be taken per every 150 feet of windrow, or fraction thereof, or for every 200 cubic-yards of active compost, or fraction thereof.

(2) Temperature measurements for pathogen reduction shall be measured as follows:

(A) Windrow composting processes and agitated bays shall be monitored twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) inches below the pile surface;

(B) Aerated static pile composting processes shall be monitored twelve (12) to eighteen (18) inches from the point where the insulation cover meets the active compost.

"Aerated Static Pile" means a composting process that uses an air distribution system to either blow or draw air through the pile. Little or no pile agitation or turning is performed.

"Static Pile" means a composting process that is similar to the aerated static pile except that the air source may or may not be controlled.

"Within-vessel Composting Process" means a process in which compostable material is enclosed in a drum, silo, bin, tunnel, reactor, or other container for the purpose of producing compost, maintained under uniform conditions of temperature and moisture where air-borne emissions are controlled.

"Windrow Composting Process" means the process in which compostable material is placed in elongated piles. The piles or "windrows" are aerated and/or mechanically turned on a periodic basis.