

State Minimum Standards Training
2009 Composting Field Exercises Worksheet
Station A: What Is This Stuff?

These materials were developed under the auspices of the Board for specific field exercises and are posted as reference documents for the local government staff who attended this training. They are not intended to stand alone as informational or training materials. If you require assistance in obtaining access to the exercise, call the Public Affairs Office at (916) 341-6300 or Jeff Watson at (916) 341-6368.

Background

14 CCR Section 17852 provides the definitions that are necessary to determine if composting is taking place, whether the material is a compostable material, and provides the basis for determining the appropriate level of regulatory oversight.

Exercise Instructions

This exercise is intended to familiarize participants with various compostable materials as defined by 14 CCR definitions and assist the development of individualized methods of inquiry for compostable materials characterization.

Find a partner or two and get a copy of the definitions from the Station A leader. Please identify the compostable material in each bucket and at Area "0" using the appropriate regulatory terminology based on the regulatory definitions provided. For example, "food material" or "green material with minor physical contamination" or "MSW." Circle the appropriate regulatory description of the material in windrow/each bucket (*Note: more than one description may be applicable*) and make notations (justification) on how your group reached its decision in the area below. If you desire a little more information on the material in the bucket, please lift the bucket and read the laminated information under each bucket.

Windrow area (0) – **Circle:** yard trimmings / green material / stabilized compost / additives

Rationale:

Bucket (1) – **Circle:** green material / insulating material / green material with manure

Rationale:

Bucket (2) – **Circle:** green material / food material / agricultural material / MSW

Rationale:

Bucket (3) – **Circle:** green material / food material / compostable material / MSW

Rationale:

Bucket (4) – **Circle:** yard trimmings / green material / physical contamination / food material

Rationale:

Bucket (5) – **Circle:** food material / physical contamination / MSW

Rationale:

Bucket (6) – **Circle:** food material / agricultural material / biosolids / manure

Rationale:

Bucket (7) – **Circle:** yard trimmings / green material / agricultural material / compostable material

Rationale:

Bucket (8) – **Circle:** compostable material / stabilized compost / additives / amendments

Rationale:

PLEASE CONTINUE ON THE OTHER SIDE

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(Continued)

Exercise Questions

1. T or F Green material may have 1 percent physical contaminants and 1 percent food material by weight.
2. T or F Green material by definition may contain less than 1 percent manure by weight.
3. T or F Mushroom farm operations are exempt from the compost regs (14 CCR Chapter 3.1). Hint: exempt & excluded are two different issues
4. T or F A green material composting operation may compost 10 percent manure and/or white paper by weight.
5. T or F A school is excluded from permit and notification requirements if it composts less than 500 cubic yards green material, generated on-site that contains 49 percent or less food waste.
6. T or F Biosolids may be an additive when used to add nitrogen to a compost mix.
7. T or F Any compostable material which is handled in such a way so that it does not reach 122° F temperature, would be “excluded” (not a compostable material).
8. T or F Amendments are added to stabilized or cured compost to create, for example, soil blends
9. T or F Additives are mixed with feedstock or active compost to adjust the moisture level, carbon to nitrogen ratio, or porosity, for example, overs.
10. T or F Green material collected at curbside with 5 percent physical contaminants by weight may go to a chip & grind operation as long as it is moved within 48 hours.
11. T or F Amendments are not considered when counting the material on-site
12. T or F Finished compost is not considered when counting the material on-site
13. T or F Green material with more than 1 percent physical contaminants by weight is MSW
14. T or F Wood waste is a type of physical contaminant
15. T or F “Manure” by definition has to be an agricultural material

Supplemental Exercise: 14CCR§17855(a)(9) Beneficial use of compostable materials is an excluded activity. Beneficial use includes, but is not limited to, slope stabilization, weed suppression, Alternative Daily Cover, and similar uses, as determined by the EA; land application in accordance with California Department of Food and Agriculture requirements for a beneficial use as authorized by [Food and Agricultural Code section 14501](#) et seq.; and reclamation projects in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Mine Reclamation of the Department of Conservation as authorized by [Public Resources Code section 2770](#) et seq. 14CCR§17852(a)(11) “Compostable Material” means any organic material that when accumulated will become active compost as defined in section 17852(a)(1).

Can contaminants be present in green material destined for beneficial use? Can MSW? (yes or no and please explain)