

Welcome

**WAC 173-350- REVISING
WASHINGTON'S SOLID WASTE RULE**

WAC 173-350-210 and -310 draft rule

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Background

**Sections 210 and 310 cover the
standards for:
Recycling,
Material Recovery Facilities,
Transfer Stations, and
Drop Boxes**

Basis for changes

- While section 310 worked well when it came to regulating transfer stations and drop boxes, the standards for material recovery facilities (MRFs) in 310 and recycling facilities in 210 were often confused.
- It is also possible to have both material recovery and recycling occurring at the same facility, and while both activities are part of the recycling system, the operating requirements were different.



Basis for changes

- The standards for permitted MRFs were clear under 310. 210, stated that facilities that could not meet the terms and conditions for exemption needed to obtain a permit, but remained silent on what those permitting requirements were.
- Sometimes facility owners submitted notifications of exemption when their operations required permits, putting them out of compliance, causing significant delays to receiving their operating permit.



Basis for changes

- Ecology sought to reduce this confusion and make the standards for those two facility types consistent in the requirements for exemption
- We therefore moved the standards for MRFs from section 310 to section 210





Rule Overview

Primary changes

- The material recovery facilities standards were moved from WAC 173-350-310 to section 210, which is now called “Recycling and material recovery facilities”.
- The title for WAC 173-350-310 was changed to “Transfer stations and drop box facilities”, and it now only covers those standards.



Primary changes

- Both the definitions of MRFs and Recycling were updated in part to help clarify that recycling and material recovery, while different activities, can both occur at the same location.
- Handling requirements for both permitted and permit exempt MRFs and recyclers were standardized.



Definitions in section 100

- “**Material recovery facility**” means any facility that receives, compacts, repackages, or sorts source separated solid waste for the purpose of recycling.”



Definitions in section 100

- **“Recycling”** means transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than disposal or incineration. Recycling includes processing waste materials to produce tangible commodities. Recycling does not include crushing, shredding, compacting, sorting, baling, or repackaging when those activities are part of collection, intermediate processing, or preparation for the purpose of transport.



Definitions in section 100

- **“Commingled recyclable materials”** means a mixture of several types of recyclable materials in one load or container including, but not limited to, aluminum cans, paper, plastic, and cardboard in one container, or wood, concrete, and metal in one load.



Draft 210 standards

- To operate under exemption, both facility types must accept only source separated materials that are segregated into individual streams – no comingled recyclable materials.
- Facilities may accept as many material streams as they wish as long as EACH stream has less than 5% contamination.
- Both facility types are subject to the same permitting standards if they can't meet the conditions for exemption.
- The permitting standards are essentially what all permitted MRFs have been required to meet under the current rule.



Draft 310 standards

- The language in 310 was revised for clarity, but without major changes to the substantive requirements.
- The standards for plans of operation were spelled out in greater detail to help operators understand what to include in that document.
- As we did for all waste handling activities in section 020, an exemption for drop box facilities accepting only recyclable materials was moved from section 020 to 310 to be with the other drop box requirements.



Section 320 — Piles used for storage or treatment

- The piles section provides applicability and requirements associated with the storage, treatment, or recycling of solid wastes in piles.
- This may be relevant to your MRF or recycling facility!





Desired Outcomes

Benefits of Changes

- Adding MRFs to the Recycling section improves the likelihood that owners/operators will identify the appropriate standards to follow, whether for a permit or a permit exemption.
- Aligning the requirements of the two types of handling levels the playing field for design and operations.



Benefits of Changes

- Decoupling MRF permitting standards from those of transfer stations helps clarify to other regulatory agencies that permitted MRFs are not disposal facilities. This can help with zoning issues.
- Clarifying requirements for the plan of operations increases the likelihood that operators can turn in a complete application the first time and reduce the delays in getting a permit issued.





Questions and Discussion



Thank You!