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Acceptable Uses for Processed Glass Aggregate

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Introduction:

Glass collected through community recycling programs consists primarily of clear, green, and brown food or beverage containers. Color-sorted glass has the highest resale value in glass container markets, however some glass is broken during transportation or sorting, resulting in a lower value mixed glass cullet. Further, the market price for recycled glass as cullet has decreased in recent years, a trend that is not expected to reverse in the foreseeable future. The Agency of Natural Resources encourages safe and credible alternative uses of recycled glass.

This acceptable use paper, issued by the Solid Waste Management Program, outlines the requirements for the acceptable use of uncontaminated, mixed color, processed glass aggregate (PGA) as a replacement for other natural aggregate materials (gravel, crushed gravel, or crushed stone). Public and private entities can use PGA for the applications listed below without prior authorization from the Solid Waste Management Program.

Definition of Processed Glass Aggregate (PGA):

For the purpose of this document, PGA is mixed glass cullet produced from crushed and screened clean food and beverage containers. China dishes, ceramics, or plate glass shall be limited to 5 percent by mass of glass cullet. Screw tops, plastic rings, paper, labels and other deleterious materials shall be limited to less than 1 percent by mass of the PGA. Cathode ray tubes and fluorescent light bulbs are not allowed as feedstock for PGA. The PGA shall contain no hazardous waste. PGA must be crushed and screened such that 95 percent of the material passes a 25.0 mm screen and not more than three percent of the material passing the 4.75 mm sieve passes the 75 μ m sieve.

Processed Glass Aggregate Policy, January 2002

Allowable Applications:

PGA is exempt from the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules under Section 6-301(b)(4), and will not be considered solid waste when used for the following applications:

1. Roadway, Trail, Parking Lot, Sidewalk Applications:
 - a. Base course: layer(s) of specified material supporting a surface course
 - b. Subbase: layer(s) of specified material placed on a subgrade to support a base or surface course.
 - c. Embankments: a portion of a fill section situated between the existing ground and the subgrade.
2. Utility Trench Bedding and Backfill Applications:
 - a. Backfill material for underground utilities: sewer and water pipes, electrical conduit, and fiber optic lines.
3. Drainage Applications:
 - a. Free draining backfill behind retaining walls.
 - b. Foundations drains, drainage blankets, French drains.
4. Filter media for wastewater treatment systems.
5. Landfill cover. (Requires Solid Waste Management Program pre-approval.)
6. Bulking agent for compost. (For certified facilities, this requires Solid Waste Management Program pre-approval.)

The technical suitability of PGA in the listed applications must be determined by the user. Conformance with this policy does not provide authorization of any activity in lieu other state or local laws or specifications which may also govern.

For a resource list of PGA-related publications that include specifications, contact the Recycling Section. For authorization for other applications not listed in this document contact the Solid Waste Management Program. Both can be reached at (802) 241-3444.


P. Howard Flanders, Director, Waste Management Division


Date