

Introduction to the AAPFCO

The American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) is a volunteer organization of state Department of Agriculture (DOA) officials. More specifically, the organization represents the state *Control Officials* that regulate the distribution and sale of fertilizer, soil amendments and liming agents in each U.S. state, its territories, as well as Canada. The organization creates model laws and regulations in order to assist interstate commerce and consumer protection, and promote uniform regulation from state to state. It should be noted, however, that the model laws, regulations and Statements of Uniform Interpretation and Policy (SUIP) AAPFCO develops, are done so to provide guidance to states - *they are not forced upon them*.

Composters should understand that state DOAs (AAPFCO members) can greatly impact the way they do business – from requiring them to pay tonnage and other registration fees, to creating minimum product standards, to changing the way we label our products. For additional information on AAPFCO and its effort, visit www.AAPFCO.org.

Over the past 10 years, Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates, Inc.'s principal, has been working with AAPFCO on behalf of the North American composting industry. He has worked hard to improve the proper regulation of compost, and other organic recycled products. These efforts have been completed on behalf of the US Composting Council and his own company's clients.



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