
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2006
TO: USCC Board of Directors Executive Committee and Dr. Stuart Buckner, Executive Director
FROM: Ron Alexander, USCC Market Development Committee & Industry Liaison to AAPFCO
RE: Update from the AAPFCO Annual Meeting

Uniform Bills Committee

The Uniform Bills Committee met to discuss a variety of subjects, with the most relevant to our organization being the 'Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost'. First, it should be noted that a tentative version of the document text has been published in the AAPFCO Publication 59 (which is available for purchase through AAPFCO). The goal of our efforts during this Committee meeting was to make final modifications to the document so that it could be forwarded to the AAPFCO Board for review and approval (so that the updated version can be placed in tentative status again). Certain modifications to the document were required for clarity and overall improvement, while another was necessary in order to add the final list of Compost Claims to the document. After adding a definition for the term 'feedstocks' to the document, the USCC was asked to develop a list of common compost feedstocks and related definitions. By completing the document at this meeting, and gaining Committee and Board approval, the document could be voted on by the AAPFCO member states in August. This, in turn, if no additional changes to the document are made, will allow the document to go into official status in 2007. On Tuesday, February 21st the AAPFCO Board approved the document as 'tentative'. We will now wait member approval in August.

The 'tentative' version of the 'Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost' is attached.

Soil Amendment Subcommittee

(of the Uniform Bill's Committee)

It was decided over a year ago that a Subcommittee should be formed consider a rewrite of the current Uniform Soil Amendment Bill. The model Bill is not considered strong enough or inclusive of many of the products now registered as soil amendments. Further, it does not contain any draft rules and regulations (only the legislative language). It was decided that within a new model Bill, soil amendments should be categorized by their intended benefits to the soil (intended use): 1. microbial (e.g., microbes), 2. chemical (e.g., wetting agents, moisture gels) or 3. physical (e.g., compost, peat) and maybe 4. other. Further, it was proposed that the definition of 'soil amendments' be modified to include chemical, physical and biological improvements to soil. It currently states that soil amendment are product that provide (only) physical improvement to the soil. The USCC was asked to continue assisting in the process of rewriting the Bill, and in developing some addition definitions for use within it. This overall process is very good for the regulation and marketing of compost. We will work to have the list of Compost Claims

(now within the Uniform Fertilizer Bill Rules and Regulations [draft]) added to the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill.

Environmental Affairs Subcommittee

(of the Environmental Affairs Committee)

The By-Products and Recycled Materials Subcommittee once again met to discuss several issues, most of which were not relevant to most composters. However, it was noted at the meeting that the full list of Compost Claims (developed by the USCC) was provided to the AAPFCO Board to add to the 'Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost'. Although this action has actually delayed the approval process of the document, it has allowed for a better document to be developed.

It was also mentioned that OMRI has begun a heavy metal project, which will evaluate current heavy metal standards, for potential inclusion within their 'certified organic' approval documents.