



Washington State
Department of Agriculture

Fertilizer
Registration
Guidance Document

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Inquiries regarding availability of this publication in alternative formats should be directed to the WSDA at (360) 902-1976 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) (800) 833-6388

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Commercial Fertilizer Registration in Washington State

All fertilizer products distributed in Washington must first be registered with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Pesticide Management Division. This Fertilizer Registration Guidance Document provides information pertaining to heavy metals test requirements, specific labeling requirements, review of micronutrient and waste-derived fertilizers by the Washington State Department of Ecology, and related information.

Key Registration Points

Registration Cycle: All fertilizer registrations in Washington State are on a two-year cycle. For example, the 2015-2017 cycle starts on July 1, 2015 and expires on June 30, 2017.

Application Fee: \$150 per product

Registration Timeline: WSDA's goal is 60 days from receipt of a **complete** application, or 90 days for waste-derived and micronutrient products which require a Department of Ecology review.

Complete Application: Use the checklist on the back of form [4300A](#) to ensure a complete submission. **An incomplete application will delay your registration.**

Once your product is registered: WSDA will issue a current registration certificate via email listing your registered products and a unique WSDA company number (different from your UBI number). Your company number will stay the same for as long as you do business with WSDA. Please contact WSDA if you find any errors on your certificate.

WSDA posts application information, including the metals data for your product(s) on the publically accessible fertilizer product database <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/fertilizers/product-database>

Prior to the expiration date of your product registration, you will receive a product renewal application. **WSDA sends the renewal application to the email address listed in the fertilizer product database.** Make sure to notify WSDA if your company has a change of contact information.

Globally Harmonized System (GHS)

GHS is the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals developed to promote a universal standard for hazard communication. In May 2012, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) aligned its existing Hazard Communication Standard (HSC) with GHS. The rule change makes major changes to the HSC, including new labeling requirements that chemical manufacturers and importers must make by June 1, 2015 (distributors have until December 1, 2015 to ship products labeled under the former labeling system).

If your fertilizer is intended to be distributed to the commercial market (including agriculture, nursery, greenhouse, or professionally managed turf and landscapes), your product is subject to GHS and the label must follow the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and must use the applicable label elements, including hazard pictogram, signal words and hazard statements from your SDS. (For example, "Causes skin irritation.") The hazard statement found on the SDS should be the same one used on the label. Please provide WSDA with a copy of your product's SDS with your application. Information about GHS is

available from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at.
<https://www.osha.gov/hazcom/fag>

NEW! Grade Statements Policy

The grade for a commercial fertilizer is the percentage of Total Nitrogen-Available Phosphate-Soluble Potash (N-P-K) that is guaranteed to be in the product. In order to comply with Washington State law (chapter 15.54 RCW) and promote labels that would be accepted in all states, WSDA will no longer allow labels and labeling that have extensions on the grade statement. These extensions were normally for secondary or micronutrients and added to the end of the grade with "+", such as in "Blue Bird Lawn Food 10-0-6+3Fe". The secondary or micronutrient content may still be a part of the product/brand name but not the grade. WSDA prefers the additional nutrients to be associated with the product/brand name instead of the grade and the grade to be on a separate line. For products where the grade was the product name (21-0-0+24S), WSDA recommends that you move the "+24S" to the next line and replace the "+" with the word "plus", "with", or "including". It would now read as:

21-0-0
with 24% Sulfur

Example grade statements with product/brand names are shown in the table below.

Acceptable Grade Statements with product/brand name	NOT Acceptable Grade Statements with product/brand name
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4-3
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 with 3% Sulfur	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4-3S
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3S
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% S 5-4-4	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3% S
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 with 3% Sulfur	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3% Sulfur
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 including 3% Sulfur	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+ Sulfur 3%
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 plus 3% Sulfur	
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 plus 3% S	*Format preferred by WSDA

WSDA realizes this may be a burden on industry, so we are implementing the following phase out period.

- **January 1, 2016** all new fertilizer registrations and all revised labels must only have N-P-K (if required) as the grade statement.
- **July 1, 2017** all labels shall have the new format of only N-P-K as the grade statement.
- When submitting revised labels, WSDA will not consider it a new product (and therefore not subject to new registration fees) if the only thing changing about the product is the adherence to the new format.
 - *Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3S to Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4*
 - is **NOT** a new product
 - *Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3S to Blue Bird Excellent Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4*
 - **IS** a new product

Heavy Metals Information

1. The metals data reported on the product registration form (4300B) are used to determine if the product meets the Washington State standard for annual metals addition to soil. The metals concentrations listed in the application must accurately represent what is in the product. **You may report a higher value than that found by the laboratory but not a lower value.**
 - The values of metals found must be reported in parts per million (ppm). You must convert parts per billion (ppb) to parts per million (ppm) if the results are reported by the lab in ppb.
2. Products found out of compliance are subject to stop sale or withdrawal from distribution. You may state metals values higher than the analyzed results to allow for variations in product heavy metals content.
3. The metals data you provide is posted on the WSDA internet site once the product is registered. For information on Washington's heavy metals standards see [WAC 16-200-7063](#) and [7064](#).
4. If your product is a repack of a waste-derived fertilizer that has already been reviewed by Ecology, there is no need for any further Ecology testing. Submit the Ecology Questionnaire and indicate that it is a repack and list the repack information (product name and WSDA product number) on page two.
5. Ensure your product will meet Washington State Heavy Metals Standard by using the WSDA [Metals Calculator](#) before sending in your application.
6. Heavy Metals Analysis Exemption: If your product meets any of the three exemptions listed below, you do not need to perform a metals analysis:
 - A. Anhydrous ammonia or products derived solely from anhydrous ammonia dissolved in water (unless waste derived), OR
 - B. Customer formula mix, OR
 - C. If ALL of the following apply;
 1. You are repackaging a **single** chemical compound (i.e. urea, MAP, DAP, muriate of potash or similar products.); AND,
 2. the single chemical compound is already registered in Washington; AND,
 3. you do not amend or blend the product with any additional materials.
 You will be required to list each of your suppliers and their product registration numbers.

More information on the Heavy Metals Analysis Exemption can be found at [RCW 15.54.325 \(1\) \(g\)](#).

Example 1: Metals on Lab Report and 4300B

Items required on Heavy Metals Lab Report

ABC TESTING LABS
1234 D Ave
Homerville, WA 98001
360-123-4567

Name and address of lab

Your company name

Client: SuperGro Farm Supply
HWY 9
Homerville, WA 98001

Product Name
May be entered by registrant after report is issued

Sample ID: SuperFert Super Fertilizer

Detection limit or reporting limit

Units
We prefer ppm or equivalent

Approved analytical method and revision

Important dates
Date Received: 05/04/2012
Date Reported: 05/21/2012

All nine metals

Results

Analyte	Results	MDL	Units	Method
Arsenic (As)	1.25	0.5	ppm	EPA SW846 6010B
Cadmium (Cd)	ND	1.0	ppm	6010B
Cobalt (Co)	2.56	1.0	ppm	6010B
Mercury (Hg)	ND	50	ug/kg	7471A
Molybdenum (Mo)	ND	1.0	ppm	6010B
Nickel (Ni)	1.2	1.0	ppm	6010B
Lead (Pb)	1.10	1.0	ppm	6010B
Selenium (Se)	0.97	0.5	ppm	6010B
Zinc (Zn)	0.0275	0.01	%	6010B

NOTE: Preparation for EPA SW846-6010B was EPA SW846-3050B

Digestion/preparation method and revision

Enter values into **4300B** Form

You may enter a value ABOVE the reported results, but not below

Convert all values to PPM

ppm = mg/kg = mg/L = parts per million
ppb = ug/kg = parts per billion (ppb / 1,000) = ppm
% = parts per hundred (% x 10,000) = ppm

P ₂ O ₅	Mg	Cl	Fe	Na	CaCO ₃	MgCO ₃	CaCO ₃ (eq)	CaSO ₄ ·2H ₂ O
K ₂ O	S	Co	Mn	Zn				
GUARANTEED MAXIMUM METALS CONCENTRATION (PPM)								
As	Cd	Co	Hg	Mo	Ni	Pb	Se	Zn
2.0	1.0	2.56	.05	1.0	1.2	1.1	.97	275
ND, BDL, MDL, ZERO OR BLANK IS NOT PERMITTED.								
ECOLOGY INFORMATION								

All values must be greater than or equal to the minimum detection limit
Do not enter "ND", "BDL", "MDL", "0" or "<" on the 4300B Form



WSDA HEAVY METALS TEST REQUIREMENTS

SUBMIT THIS GUIDE WITH YOUR SAMPLE TO YOUR LAB!

Note to Registrant:

- Washington State heavy metals calculations are rate based, not concentration based. As a result, some products require a lower detection limit and/or application limits on the label.
 - If you have a nutrient with a high percentage in the Guaranteed Analysis (GA), you may be able to have higher detection limits.
 - If all of the nutrients have a low percentage in the GA, you must test with lower detection limits. Low nutrients are common in organic based fertilizers and products specifically designed for Hydroponic and Continuous Liquid Feed.
 - To see if your detection limits are too high, use the heavy metals calculator.
<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/fertilizers/metals-analysis-requirement>
- Metals that commonly fail due to high detection limits include Molybdenum (Mo) and Selenium (Se).
- If available from your lab, request a Washington State heavy metals test. If not, make sure the lab utilizes the appropriate methods for all nine metals.
- Indicate the product name on each report.
- If the product is subject to Ecology review (waste-derived or micronutrient fertilizers) you must perform the tests as required on the Ecology Questionnaire in addition to the WSDA heavy metals test.

Note to laboratory:

- Only use the methods and revisions approved by WSDA as noted in the table below.
- The report must include:
 - Digestion/Preparation method(s) and revision(s) used.
 - Analysis method(s) and revision(s) used.
 - A detection limit (MDL, RL, PQL, etc.) for each element. Do not list results below this limit.
 - Units (ppm or mg/kg)
 - Results for all nine metals, either:
 - value above reporting limit, or
 - BDL(Below Detection Limit), ND (Not Detected), <value, etc.
- Mercury requires a separate test.**

Accepted Methods*	AOAC	EPA SW-846				Suggested minimum detection limits for low guarantee products in ppm** (eg. 1% Nitrogen)
Digestion/Prep ▶ For all except Mercury	2006.03	3050B	3010 ¹	3020 ¹	3051 ²	
Analytical Methods ▼						
Arsenic (As)	2006.03	6010	6020	7060A	7061A	5
Cadmium (Cd)	2006.03	6010	6020	7130	7131A	1
Cobalt (Co)	2006.03	6010	6020	7200	7201	5
Mercury (Hg)		7470A	7471A	7473	7474²	0.1
Molybdenum (Mo)	2006.03	6010	6020	7480		1
Nickel (Ni)	2006.03	6010	6020	7520	7521	10
Lead (Pb)	2006.03	6010	6020	7420	7421	40
Selenium (Se)	2006.03	6010	6020	7740	7741A	1
Zinc (Zn)	2006.03	6010	6020	7950	7951	150

*Any subsequent revision (letter) to the methods listed above will be accepted by WSDA. Earlier revisions will **NOT** be accepted.

**If guarantee is less than 1% nutrient, use detection limits lower than those stated in this table.

¹ Liquids Only

² Solids Only

More information can be found at <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/fertilizers/fertilizer-product-registration> or by calling (360) 902-2025. AGR PUB 707-382 (R/4/15)

Commercial Fertilizer Label Examples

Example 2: Basic Fertilizer Label

Basic Fertilizer Label

<p>SuperFert Super Fertilizer</p>	<p>Product Name, Brand Wording of the name of the product from the label needs to be the same as the wording on the 4300B form. If this differs from the exact wording on the actual label in use there may be initial confusion of the registration status of the product.</p>
<p>5-5-5</p>	<p>Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The N-P-K grade must be separated by dashes (-) Except for specialty fertilizers and fertilizer materials, the grade must be listed in whole numbers such as 1-2-3 and not fractional numbers such as 1.5-5.0-3.5.
<p>Guaranteed Analysis Total Nitrogen (N) 5.0% Available Phosphate (P₂O₅) 5.0% Soluble Potash (K₂O) 5.0%</p>	<p>The Guaranteed Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is the MINIMUM level of nutrients guaranteed. must list all nutrients guaranteed in the product. will not contain zero guarantees. <p>TIP: Round down to ensure that the product meets guarantee</p>
<p>Derived from: urea, rock phosphate, potassium chloride</p>	<p>Derivation of Fertilizer Sources Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The derivation statement immediately follows the guaranteed analysis section. The statement provides <u>all</u> sources of <u>each</u> nutrient guaranteed. The section should be listed as "Derived From" or "Sources of Nutrients Claimed". The fertilizer sources should be from recognized source materials. Brand names are not acceptable.
<p>SuperGro Farm Supply HWY 9 Homerville, WA 98001 www.supergrofarm.com</p>	<p>Name and Address of the Registrant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company name and address of the company registering the product must be on the label. Other statements such as "Manufactured" for or by (name of company) may be added.
<p>Net Weight: 25 Lbs</p>	<p>Net weight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be in pounds or ounces. Metric measurements may be displayed, however U.S. measurement must be on the label. Liquid product net contents can be listed, however the weight per gallon must also be provided.
<p>Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at: http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm</p>	<p>Approved internet statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fertilizer labels distributed in Washington State must contain the statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the Internet at http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm. OR another approved internet statement found in WAC 16-200-715.

Example 3: Additional Label Information

Additional Label Information

What if I have a Specialty Fertilizer?

- ⇒ "Specialty fertilizer" means a commercial fertilizer distributed primarily for nonfarm use, such as, but not limited to, use on home gardens, lawns, shrubbery, flowers, golf courses, municipal parks, cemeteries, greenhouses, and nurseries.
- ⇒ Specialty fertilizers may be guaranteed in fractional units of less than one percent of total nitrogen, available phosphorus or phosphoric acid, and soluble potassium or potash. Fertilizer materials, bone meal, manures, and similar materials may be guaranteed in fractional units.
- ⇒ Specialty fertilizers, except manipulated animal and vegetable manures, guaranteeing less than five percent total plant food shall contain on the label specific directions for use. Prior to registration, the department may require proof of the efficacy of the product when used as directed.
- ⇒ A person may not sell turf fertilizer that is labeled as containing phosphorus except under certain conditions. Read more about the phosphate law at <http://agr.wa.gov/pesifert/fertilizers/phosturfert.aspx>.

Specialty Turf Fertilizer

3.2-0-1.4

Guaranteed Analysis

Total Nitrogen (N) 3.2%
 0.4% Nitrate Nitrogen
 2.8% Urea Nitrogen*
 Soluble Potash (K₂O) 1.4%

Derived from:
 Polymer Coated Urea, Potassium Nitrate

*2.8% Slowly available Nitrogen derived from Polymer Coated Urea

Directions:

Apply 5 pounds per 1000 square feet of lawn,
6 times per year

SuperGro Farm Supply
 HWY 9
 Homerville, WA 98001

Net weight: 25 lbs

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at: <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>

Non-Plant Food Ingredient

10% Humic Acid derived from Leonardite

What if I claim slow release nutrients?

- Position the slow release claim immediately below the derivation statement
- The slow release statement must include
 - ◇ Citation mark linking to nutrient in the guaranteed analysis
 - ◇ The percent of slow release nutrient
 - ◇ The source of the slow release nutrient
- The format above is a sample format. Other accepted formats can be found in the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) Official Publication or Product Label Guide at <http://www.aapfco.org/>

What if I claim Non-Plant Food Ingredients?

- Position the statement immediately below the derivation statement (or slow release statement if present) with the heading:
 - ◇ "Non-Plant Food Ingredients", or
 - ◇ "ALSO CONTAINS NON-PLANT FOOD INGREDIENTS" if registered in California
- Statement must include
 - ◇ The percentage of non-plant food ingredient
 - ◇ The source of the non-plant food ingredient
- Examples of non-plant food ingredients
 - ◇ Silicon/silica (SiO₂)
 - ◇ Humic Acid/Fulvic Acid
 - ◇ Lignosulfonates
 - ◇ Water holding gel

Example 4: Secondary or Micronutrient

What if my product has secondary or micronutrients?

- Grade is not required if NO primary nutrients (N,P,K) are claimed.
- Secondary nutrients (Ca, Mg, S) and micronutrients must be listed in the guaranteed analysis in the same order as the table to the right.
- The product must have the minimum percentage of the nutrient as listed in the table to the right (except hydroponic and continuous liquid feed. See bottom of page for details.).
- Warning statements will be required for products that contain more than 0.1% boron (B) or 0.001% molybdenum (Mo).
- Please note that WSDA does not recognize nickel (Ni) as a micronutrient at this time. Any guarantee for nickel (Ni) must be listed as a Non-Plant Food Ingredient.

TIP:

If the product contains only micronutrients (no N, P, K, Ca, Mg, S) it is considered a micronutrient fertilizer and subject to review by Washington Department of Ecology. See Ecology Questionnaire.

Calcium (Ca)	1%
Magnesium (Mg)	0.5%
Sulfur (S)	1%
Boron (B)	0.02%
Chlorine (Cl)	0.1%
Cobalt (Co)	0.0005%
Copper (Cu)	0.05%
Iron (Fe)	0.1%
Manganese (Mn)	0.05%
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.0005%
Sodium (Na)	0.1%
Zinc (Zn)	0.05%

Super Hydro Fertilizer

0.6-0-0.3

Guaranteed Analysis

Total Nitrogen (N).....0.6%
Soluble Potash (K₂O).....0.3%
Sulfur (S).....0.7%
Boron (B).....0.05%
Iron (Fe).....0.04%
Molybdenum (Mo).....0.005%

Derived from:
potassium citrate, ammonium sulfate, iron EDTA, boric acid, sodium molybdate

This fertilizer contains boron, which may be injurious to certain crops. Contact your local county agent or field consultant for specific information.

CAUTION: This fertilizer is to be used only on crops which respond to molybdenum. Crops high in molybdenum are toxic to grazing animals (ruminants).

Directions for use

Hydroponic: add 2.0 ml per gallon to the nutrient tank

Continuous Liquid Feed: Add Super Hydro Fertilizer to the irrigation water at a rate of 1.0 ml per gallon every time the plant needs water.

SuperGro Farm Supply
HWY 9
Homerville, WA 98001
www.supergrofarm.com

Net Contents: 32 fl. Oz.
Net Weight: 2.2 lbs.

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at:
<http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>

What if my product is labeled ONLY for hydroponic or continuous liquid feed?

- These product labels may guarantee levels of plant nutrients below the minimum guarantees required for commercial fertilizers.
- The label must not have directions for anything except hydroponic or continuous liquid feed uses. (If there are directions for foliar spray or your product is a dry continuous feed, this exemption does not apply).
- Low guarantee products require metals tests with lower detection limits. See the metals calculator to determine the required detection limits http://agr.wa.gov/Pestfert/Fertilizers/docs/form_MetalsCalculator.xlsx.

What if my fertilizer is a liquid?

- Liquid product net contents can be listed, however, the weight per gallon must also be provided.

Alternative net weight listing

Net Contents: 32 fl. Oz
Density: 8.8 lbs per gallon

Example 5: Organic

What if my product is Organic?

- "Organic" means a material containing carbon and one or more elements (other than hydrogen and oxygen) essential for plant growth. When the term "organic" is utilized in the label or labeling of any commercial fertilizer, it shall be qualified as either "synthetic organic" or "natural organic," with the percentage of each specified.
- Use of the WSDA Registered Organic Material logo, the phrase "Certified for use in organic production" or any other organic use claim will be verified by WSDA Registration Services. Labels or labeling bearing false claims will be rejected.
- If you would like to be listed on WSDA's Organic Food Program's Brand Name Material List please contact organicmaterials@agr.wa.gov or 360-902-1805.
- All fertilizers must be registered with WSDA Registration Services before they can be approved by WSDA Organic Materials Review.

TIP:
Do not include the WSDA Organic Logo until the product has been registered with WSDA Organic Program.

The image shows a fertilizer label for "Super Organic Fertilizer". At the top, it says "90% Natural Organic" in a blue box, with a red arrow pointing from the tip above. Below that is the ratio "3-1-2". The "Guaranteed Analysis" section lists: Total Nitrogen(N)3%, Available Phosphate (P₂O₅)1%, and Soluble Potash (K₂O)2%. The "Derived from:" section lists Soybean Meal, rock phosphate, and Kelp (*Ascophyllum nodosum*). Below this is the WSDA Registered Material logo, with a red arrow pointing from the tip above. To the right of the logo is the text "WSDA Registered Material for Use in Organic Agriculture". The bottom section provides contact information for SuperGro Farm Supply: HWY 9, Homerville, WA 98001, www.supergrofarm.com, and Net Weight 10 lbs. At the very bottom, it says "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at: <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>".

Example 6: CFM Label

What if my product is a Customer Formula Fertilizer (CFF or CFM)?

- "Customer-formula fertilizer" means a mixture of commercial fertilizer or materials of which each batch is mixed according to the specifications of the final purchaser (also referred to as a "customer formula mix").
- Label must include all items from the basic fertilizer label **except** the heavy metal internet statement.
- Label must also include name and address of the purchaser.

TIPS:

1. One CFF registration can be used for multiple blends and multiple customers under the same name (ex. SuperGro Farm Supply CFF). Must be mixed per customer specifications and on demand.
2. All fertilizer products in a CFF must be registered with WSDA.

SuperGro Farm Supply CFF

Custom mix for:

Blue Bird Farms
HWY 10
Homerville, WA 98001

26-0-26

Guaranteed Analysis
 Total Nitrogen(N) 26%
 Soluble Potash..... 26%

Derived from:
 Urea, Muriate of potash

SuperGro Farm Supply
 HWY 9
 Homerville, WA 98001
www.supergrofarm.com

Net weight on load slip

SuperGro Farm Supply BOL

Delivered to:

Blue Bird Farms
 HWY 10
 Homerville, WA 98001

Product	Weight (lbs)
Urea (46-0-0)	22,800
Muriate of Potash (0-0-62)	17,200
Net Weight	40,000

SuperGro Farm Supply
 HWY 9
 Homerville, WA 98001
www.supergrofarm.com

Both sheets are required for a complete label

What if my product is distributed in bulk?

- A label or statement that includes all of the information from the basic label must be included with the load.
- A load slip or bill of lading may be used as a label or supplemental label for bulk products only.
- Bulk products still require the approved internet statement unless it is a CFF.

TIP:

Companies distributing bulk products must have a Bulk Fertilizer Distribution License. More information can be found at: <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Fertilizers/BulkDistributionLicense.aspx>

Example 7: Product is a Lime

What if my product is a lime?

Must contain all of the items on the basic fertilizer label, PLUS-

- ⇒ The percentage of calcium or magnesium expressed as carbonate (CaCO_3 or MgCO_3);
- ⇒ The calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE) as determined by methods prescribed by the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC);
- ⇒ The minimum percentage of material that will pass respectively a one hundred mesh (100), sixty mesh (60), and ten mesh (10) sieve. The mesh size declaration may also include the percentage of material that will pass additional mesh sizes;
- ⇒ Calcium (Ca) and/or magnesium (Mg) may also be guaranteed.

Super Lime

Guaranteed Analysis

Calcium (Ca) ... 38%
Calcium Carbonate (CaCO_3) 95%
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) 95%

Minimum percent material that will pass

100 mesh 98%
60 mesh 100%
10 mesh 100%

Derived from:
Pulverized Calcitic Limestone

SuperGro Farm Supply
HWY 9
Homerville, WA 98001
www.supergrofarm.com

Net Weight 25 Lbs

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at:
<http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>

Super Gypsum

Guaranteed Analysis

Calcium (Ca)	21%
Sulfur (S)	17%
Calcium Sulfate($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$).....	96%

Derived from:
Gypsum

SuperGro Farm Supply
HWY 9
Homerville, WA 98001
www.supergrofarm.com

Net Weight 50 lbs

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at:
<http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>

What if my product is gypsum?

- The guaranteed analysis must include a guarantee for **Calcium Sulfate ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$)** in addition to the guarantee for Sulfur (S). Also acceptable would be:
 - Gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$)
 - Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$)
- All gypsum guarantees should be for $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ even if the product is an anhydrite gypsum.
- Calcium may also be guaranteed.

Additional Label Information

Commercial Fertilizer Label Information

1. All fertilizers require a label that describes the product. Packaged fertilizers require a label affixed to the package, while bulk fertilizers may be accompanied by a bill of lading that contains all of the labeling requirements or that has the label attached.
 - Labeling is defined as: all written, printed, or graphic matter, or advertisement, brochures, posters, television and radio announcements used in promoting the sale of such fertilizer. Be aware that the claims and statements made on your internet site are considered enforceable labeling.
 - **Bill of Lading:** For Bulk products, a bill of lading may substitute as all or part of your label. All parts of a label must be covered by these documents.
2. Products with label statements suggesting pesticide use (including adjuvants) must be registered as pesticides. For more information, visit <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/pesticides/product-registration>.

Label Requirements for Commercial Fertilizer Labels with Organic Claims

1. Product labels that contain organic claims must be consistent with the following definitions under the Commercial Fertilizer Rule (caution – adding the word “organic” to your product does not mean that it is approved for organic production):
 - **Natural organic** means a material derived from either plant or animal products containing carbon and one or more elements (other than hydrogen and oxygen) essential for plant growth. (ie. composted manure, acidulated fish waste, bone meal, and limestone)
 - **Synthetic organic** means a material that is manufactured chemically (by synthesis) from its elements and other chemicals, containing carbon and one or more elements (other than hydrogen and oxygen) essential for plant growth. (ie. urea, basic lime phosphate, and copper EDTA)
2. Using these definitions, a product which is comprised solely of bone meal, kelp and/or other natural organics could claim “100% natural organic” or “all natural organic.” Products which contain a portion of their material as organic must list the actual percentage of that material, i.e., “95% natural organic.” The same is true for synthetic organic claims.
3. Use of the WSDA Registered Organic Material logo, the phrase “Certified for use in organic production” or any other organic use claim will be verified by WSDA Registration Services. Labels or labeling bearing false claims will be rejected. **Remember:** All fertilizers must be registered with WSDA Registration Services before they can be approved by WSDA Organic Materials Review. The Organic Program web site address is <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/input-material-registration>

4. Mineral materials used as fertilizers such as rock phosphate, borax, or greensand are not "organic" according to the fertilizer rule definition. These products may be considered as natural, however. Because these minerals do not contain carbon atoms, they do not meet the definition of organic. "Organic" does not mean pure or natural. "Organic" products still must be assessed the same as all other fertilizers. **Biosolids are not natural nor organic.**

Slow-Release Fertilizer Label Requirements

1. There are several approved formats for guaranteeing slow-release fertilizers. The most commonly used formats are listed below. For additional information, you may obtain an Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) publication, which lists all other formats. See the contact information section for AAPFCO's address.
2. If an amount of nitrogen is designated as organic then the water insoluble nitrogen or the slow release nitrogen guarantee must not be less than 60% of the nitrogen so designated. Coated urea shall not be included in meeting the 60% requirement.
3. When a slowly released nutrient is less than 15% of the guarantee for total nitrogen, available phosphate, or soluble potash, as appropriate, the label shall bear no reference to such designations.

Ecology Questionnaire and Review

An Ecology Questionnaire must be filled out and submitted for all “micronutrient” and “waste-derived” fertilizers. Make sure to read the descriptions below to avoid unnecessary testing, expense, and extended review time. If your product is not a micronutrient fertilizer and is not waste-derived, a review by Ecology is not required. Make sure to answer both questions in the “Ecology Information” section on the 4300B form. If your product is not waste-derived you do not need to submit the questionnaire. Ecology requires two additional analytical tests before micronutrient fertilizers and waste-derived products can be registered.

What is a Micronutrient Fertilizer?

Primary Nutrients	Secondary Nutrients	Micronutrients
Total Nitrogen (N) Available Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) Soluble Potash (K ₂ O)	Calcium (Ca) Magnesium (Mg) Sulfur (S)	Boron (B) Chlorine (Cl) Cobalt (Co) Copper (Cu) Iron (Fe) Manganese (Mn) Molybdenum (Mo) Sodium (Na) Zinc (Zn)

Just because your fertilizer contains micronutrients does not automatically mean that it is a micronutrient fertilizer. A micronutrient fertilizer guarantees one or more micronutrient, but does not guarantee any primary or secondary nutrients:

If it is not a micronutrient fertilizer, you still must determine whether it is waste-derived.

Is Your Fertilizer Waste-Derived?

With some exceptions as described under 5, below, the following five groups of fertilizer products are waste-derived and must be reviewed by Ecology:

1. Fertilizer products created by waste generators. For waste generators who manufacture a fertilizer from their waste, that fertilizer is waste-derived regardless of the type of waste or the processing and refining that occurs.
2. Fertilizers that contain any type of industrial, chemical or non-organic type of waste. The following are just a few examples of such waste ingredients:
 - Basic slag, used acids, chemical production wastes, wood ash, boiler ash, cement flue dust, digested sewage sludge, air emissions scrubber dust, etc.
3. Fertilizers that are imported from another country that contain waste ingredients.

4. Any fertilizer containing guano (bat/bird) is considered waste-derived.
5. Fertilizers created from organic waste ingredients, unless those ingredients were a “useable product” at the time the fertilizer was created. (See flow diagrams later in this section)

This fifth group of fertilizers contains organic wastes such as:

- food-processing wastes
- animal food-processing wastes
- manures
- pure plant wastes

Just because your fertilizer contains organic ingredients that were once waste does not automatically make it a waste-derived fertilizer. Read through the explanation below, then ask yourself the questions and review the charts that follow.

When a waste generator refines, processes or treats their organic waste to create a “usable product” that usable product is no longer solid waste. Therefore, when the usable product that was created from organic waste is used as an ingredient in a fertilizer, that fertilizer is not waste-derived (assuming other waste sources were not added). The fertilizer contains no waste ingredients. It contains the usable product (which is no longer waste) and other ingredients.

On the other hand, if a waste generator simply sends their organic waste to a fertilizer manufacturer as a means to get rid of it, it is still waste and the fertilizer created from that waste is “waste-derived.” In this scenario, the waste generator did not create a product out of their organic waste. This is true even if the waste generator treats the organic waste with a preservative or stabilizer for later handling and disposal. The preservative or stabilizer does not make the organic waste a usable product. It was only added to facilitate disposal, including sending the preserved/stabilized organic waste to a fertilizer manufacturer.

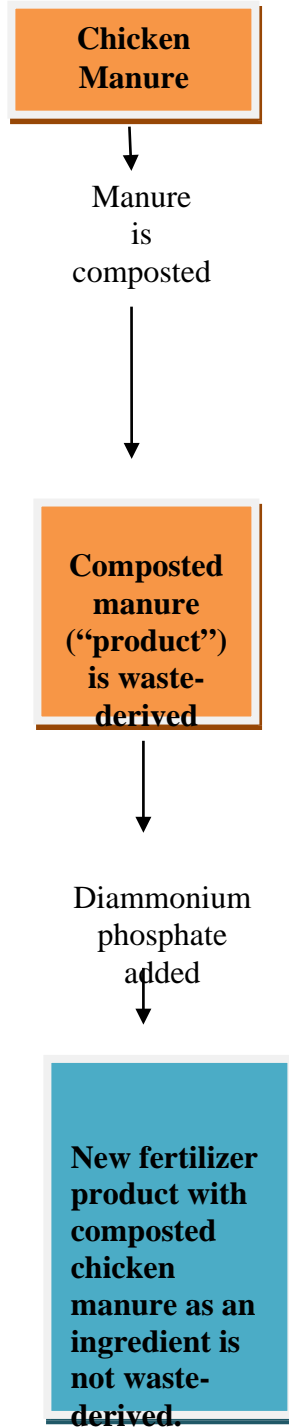
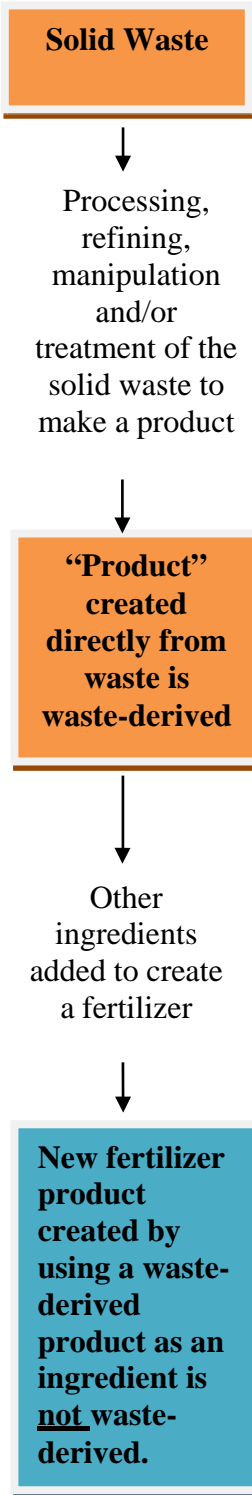
To determine whether your fertilizer product is “waste derived” it may be helpful to answer some questions about any ingredient(s) that could be organic waste:

- Is the ingredient processed or refined (composted, digested, dried, milled, etc.)?
- Is the ingredient marketed for use in fertilizers or other products?
- Did you have to pay for the product itself in addition to shipping charges?
- Is the ingredient packaged for marketability?

If you answered “yes” to one or more of the questions above, especially the first, it is an indication that the ingredient may be a product rather than solid waste.

Process

Example 1: Fertilizer Product that is not Waste-Derived

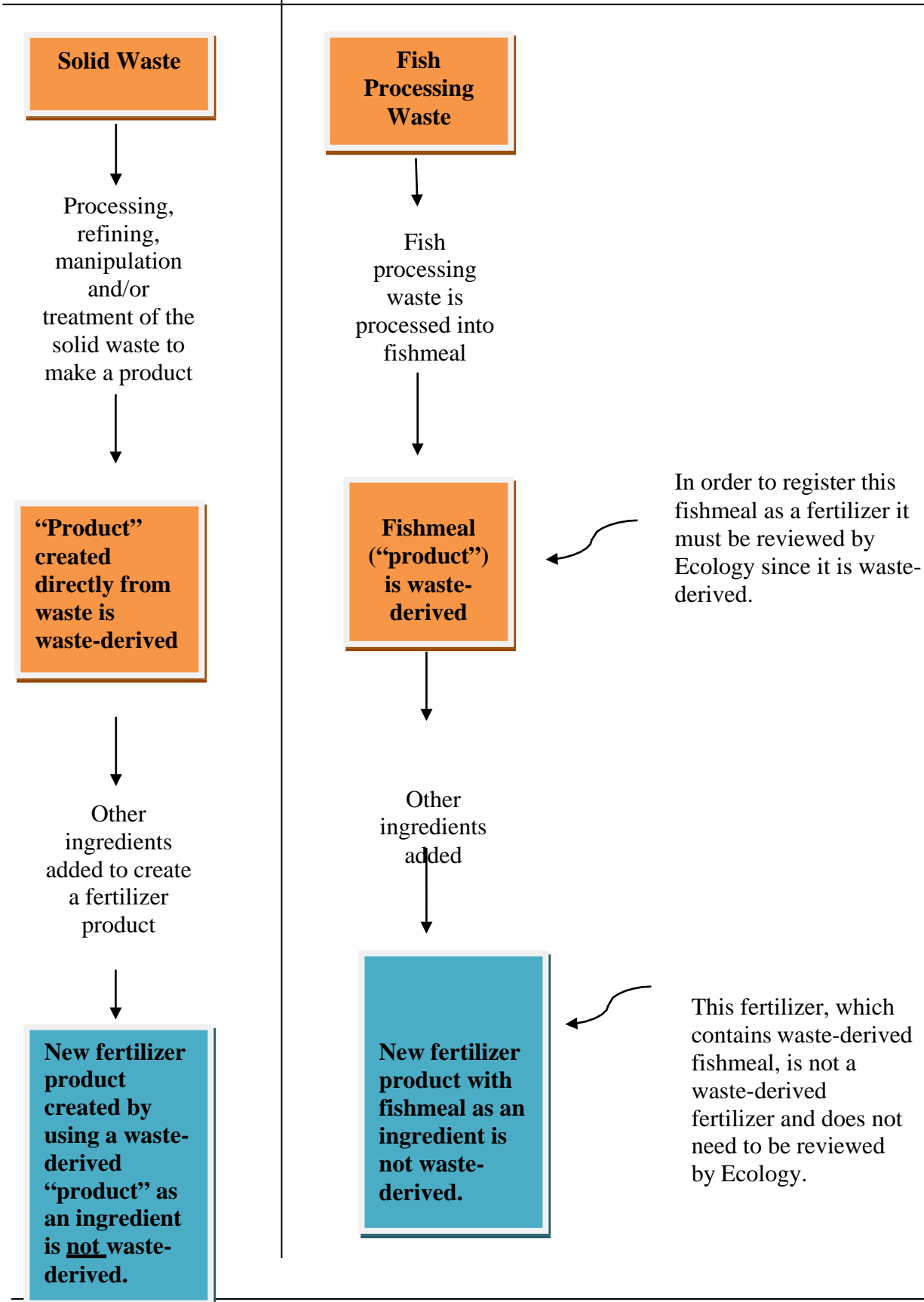


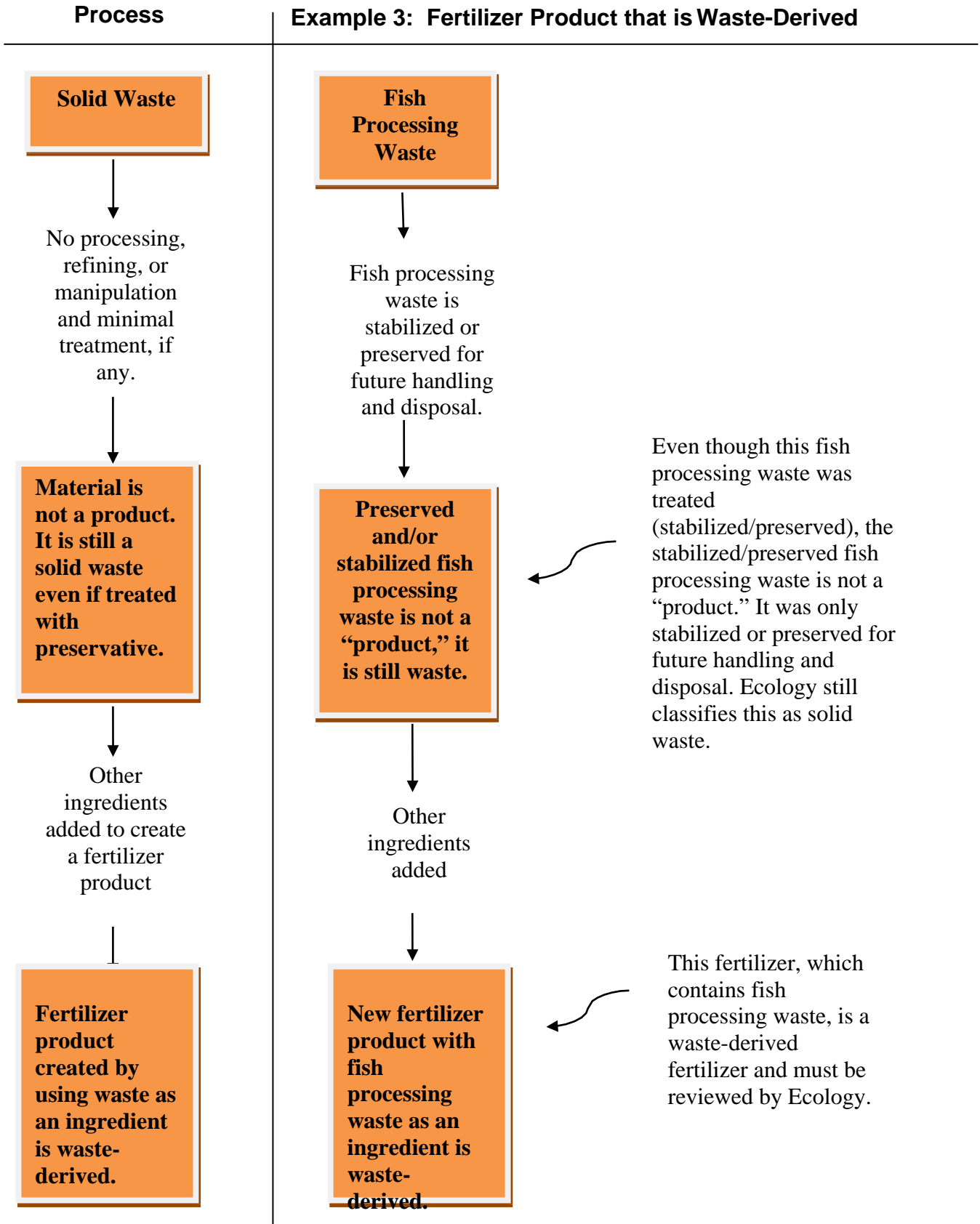
In order to register this composted chicken manure as a fertilizer it must be reviewed by Ecology since it is waste-derived.

This fertilizer, which contains waste-derived composted chicken manure, is not a waste-derived fertilizer and does not need to be reviewed by Ecology.

Process

Example 2: Fertilizer Product that is not Waste-Derived





Product-Specific Definitions

Biosolids

(Treated municipal sewage sludge)

Bio-solids are processed municipal sewage sludge that can be beneficially recycled and have undergone adequate treatment to permit their application to land. Most are used as soil amendments and are regulated by the Department of Ecology. Unpackaged bio-solids are distributed in a loose form and are generally exempt from the fertilizer law and registration. Packaged bio-solids are distributed in a container and are regulated as a fertilizer when they make fertilizer claims (such as a guaranteed analysis) on the labeling. Unpackaged and packaged bio-solids that do not meet the definition for commercial fertilizer must include a legible and conspicuous disclaimer on the labeling. The disclaimer must state that the product is not a commercial fertilizer and that any nutrient claims are estimates or averages and are not guaranteed.

Compost

Commercial composting is regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The regulatory information can be found in Chapter 173-350 WAC Solid Waste Handling Standards and at this web site: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Organic-materials/Managing-organics-compost>

Composts can be plant and/or animal material. Under the fertilizer law, if the compost fits the definition of organic waste-derived material (below), it is exempt from the law, regardless of the nutrient or plant growth claims. Animal manures and animal wastes are not considered organic-waste derived materials and do require registration if manipulated and making nutrient claims. Composts may be reviewed by the Organic Food Program for organic crop production.

- "Organic waste-derived material" means grass clippings, leaves, weeds, bark, plantings, prunings, and other vegetative wastes, uncontaminated wood waste from logging and milling operations, food wastes, food processing wastes, and materials derived from these wastes through composting. "Organic waste-derived material" does not include products that include biosolids.
- Composting is the controlled aerobic degradation of organic waste materials.
- Manipulation means processed or treated in any manner, including drying to a moisture content less than 30%.
- Exempt from the definition of a fertilizer are un-manipulated animal and vegetable manures and organic-waste derived materials.

Potting Soils

Potting soils that do not contain nutrient claims on the product label are not required to be registered as fertilizers. Those potting soils that are sold with nutrient claims are considered fertilizers and are regulated as such. Contact Fertilizer Registration for more information regarding the registration of potting soils. Washington State does not have laws or rules that specifically address horticultural

mediums, potting soils, or soil amendments. These products may be registered as fertilizers on a case by case basis, depending upon the label claims and guarantees.

Pesticide/Fertilizer Combination Products

Products that contain both fertilizers and pesticides (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide or spray adjuvant) are considered combination products. These must be registered with both the Fertilizer and Pesticide Registration Programs. The registration periods for these programs differ. The pesticide registration period is from January 1 through December 31, and the fertilizer registration period is from July 1 to June 30.

WSDA recommends whenever a combination product is submitted for registration, applications and fees should be submitted separately for both fertilizer and pesticide registration. For information regarding pesticide registration see <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/pesticides/product-registration>

Customer Formula Fertilizer Mixes (CFMs)

A CFM must be formulated and mixed according to each customer's requests. This mix is blended in bulk for only one customer to use. It cannot be resold without first being registered. All of the commercial fertilizer products going into the blend must be registered with WSDA. The end product (CFM) can be bagged for the one customer, if requested. The CFM must have labeling attached with all the elements of the label included. The CFM mix formulas and records must be kept for one year. The customer name and address must accompany this information.

"CFM" is registered as a product with other fertilizers on the 4300B Form. All customer formula mixes that are sold under one brand name such as Blue Bird are considered one product. No specific guaranteed analysis or metals are required on the form because the "CFM" can only be made from registered fertilizers and change with each blend.

Each delivery of a customer-formula fertilizer mix (CFM) must contain those ingredients specified by the final purchaser. A CFM is only for the customer requesting the mix and should only be used by that customer, not resold to others. A CFM is only for use, not for retailing or reselling.

Products Considered Non-Plant Food Ingredients

Phosphorous acid and **phosphite** differ from phosphorus or phosphate (P_2O_5). Phosphorous acid and phosphite do not provide P_2O_5 and are not considered a valid source of available phosphate for plant nutrition. If the purpose of the phosphorous acid or phosphite in the formation is for pesticidal reasons, the product must also be registered with EPA and WSDA as a pesticide.

Materials such as **humic acids** and **lignosulfonates** are not recognized as plant food sources. Micronutrients can be chelated with lignosulfonate but lignosulfonate is not considered an allowable source of sulfate. Definitions of plant food sources are found in the WSDA law and rule and in the AAPFCO Official Publication (see Contact section). Other non-plant food ingredients can include silicon or water-holding gel.

Related Information

Fertilizer Product Database

WSDA's fertilizer product database provides information on the total metal concentration of each of the nine heavy metals for which Washington State has developed soil loading standards. The WSDA web link for the database is <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/fertilizers/fertilizer-product-registration>.

Bulk Commercial Fertilizer Distribution License

This annual license is required for each location (whether in or out of state) that distributes bulk fertilizer in Washington State. The application is completed through the Business Licensing Service located at bls.dor.wa.gov/.

Tonnage Reporting

All licensees and registrants are required to submit a Commercial Fertilizer Tonnage Report. The WSDA web link for tonnage is <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/fertilizers/tonnage-reporting>

Secondary Containment

Primary storage of bulk liquid fertilizers at a permanent storage facility shall be located within secondary containment designed to prevent the release of discharged fertilizers. The WSDA web link for secondary containment is <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers/fertilizers/secondary-containment>

WSDA Organic Food Program Registration

The WSDA Organic Food Program, a USDA-accredited certifier, upholds the integrity of the organic label through certification and inspection of organic crop and livestock producers, processors, handlers and retailers. The WSDA web link for the Organic Food program is

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/input-material-registration>.

Contact Information

WSDA

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Pesticide Management Division
1111 Washington Street, NRB - 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 42589
Olympia, WA 98504-2589

Fertilizer Information: (360) 902-2025
Fax: (360) 902-2093
E-mail: fertreg@agr.wa.gov

ECOLOGY

Washington State Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
Jon Jennings
300 Desmond Drive
P.O. Box 47600
Lacey, WA 98504-7600

Phone: (360) 407-6786
E-mail: ecyHWTRfertilizer@ECY.WA.GOV

AAPFCO

The Official Publication of the Association of American Plant Food Control
Officials may be purchased from:
<https://www.aapfco.org/publications.html>

WSU Laboratory Booklet

EB1578

Analytical Laboratories and Consultants Serving Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest, June 2003.
whatcom.wsu.edu/ch/documents/Analyt_Labs_PNW_EB1578E.pdf.