

Solid Waste Companies

WAC

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PART ~~4~~I—GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

WAC 480-70-041 Definitions, general. (See WAC 480-70-226 ([Tariffs, definitions used in](#)) for definition of terms used primarily in tariff filings.) Unless the language or context indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following words, terms and phrases mean:

"Affiliated interest" means a person or corporation as defined in RCW [81.16.010](#).

"Application docket" means a commission publication listing applications requesting operating authority, and commission action taken on applications for temporary authority.

"Biomedical waste" means the following types of waste:

"Animal waste" means waste animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that are known to be infected with, or that have been inoculated with, human pathogenic microorganisms infectious to humans.

"Biosafety level 4 disease waste" means waste contaminated with blood, excretions, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who are isolated to protect others from highly communicable infectious diseases that are identified as pathogenic organisms assigned to biosafety level 4 by the Centers for Disease Control, National Institute of Health, *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, current edition.

"Cultures and stocks" means wastes infectious to humans and includes specimen cultures, cultures and stocks of etiologic agents, wastes from production of biologicals and serums, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, and laboratory waste that has come into contact with cultures and stocks of etiologic agents or blood specimens. Such waste includes, but is not limited to, culture dishes, blood specimen tubes, and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.

"Human blood and blood products" means discarded waste human blood and blood components, and materials containing free-flowing blood and blood products.

"Pathological waste" means waste human source biopsy materials, tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from surgery, obstetrical procedures, and autopsy. "Pathological waste" does not include teeth, human corpses, remains, and anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation.

"Sharps waste" means all hypodermic needles, syringes with needles attached, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

Note: Certificates issued prior to the effective date of these rules may contain the terms "biohazardous waste" or "infectious waste" in describing services authorized. From the effective date of these rules, those permits shall be understood to allow the transportation of "biomedical waste."

"Biohazardous or biomedical waste generator" means any person, by site, whose act or process produces infectious waste, or whose act first caused an infectious waste to become subject to regulation. In the case where more than one person, e.g., doctors with separate medical practices, are located in the same building, each individual business entity is a separate generator for the purposes of these rules.

"Biohazardous or biomedical waste transporter" means any person who transports infectious waste over the highways in a quantity equal to or exceeding one hundred pounds per month for compensation.

"Biosolids" means municipal sewage sludge that is a primarily organic, semisolid product resulting from the wastewater treatment process.

"Business of transporting solid waste for collection and/or disposal for compensation" means those carriers who are primarily in the specialized business of solid waste for collection and/or disposal.

"Cancellation" means an act by the commission to terminate a solid waste collection company certificate; or an act by a carrier to discontinue the application of a tariff, a tariff supplement, or a tariff item.

"Certificate" means the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Washington utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of chapter 81.77 RCW for the operation of solid waste collection companies.

"Certificated authority" means the territory and services granted by the commission and described in a company's certificate of public convenience and necessity.

"City regulation" means regulation of the operations of a solid waste collection company by a city through issuance of a contract.

"Classes of companies":

"Class A company" means a traditional solid waste collection company with an annual gross operating revenue from regulated, intrastate operations of five million dollars or more.

"Class B company" means a traditional solid waste collection company with an annual gross operating revenue from regulated, intrastate operations of less than five million dollars.

"Class C company" means a solid waste collection company that does not provide traditional residential or commercial solid waste operations. This class

includes specialized carriers generally hauling specific waste products for specific customers or providing only on-call or nonscheduled service.

"Classes of service" means either commercial, specialized, drop box, or residential service.

"Company" means a solid waste collection company.

"Commercial authority" means authority to provide solid waste collection service to business, institutional, or industrial generators.

"Commercial recycling service" means transportation of recyclable commodities from a buy-back center, drop box, or from a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials when those recyclable materials are being transported for use other than landfill disposal or incineration. Commercial recycling is regulated under chapter 81.80 RCW.

"Commercial service" means solid waste collection service provided to a business, institutional, or industrial generator.

"Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

"Common carrier" means any person who transports solid waste by motor vehicle for compensation.

"Construction debris" or **"construction waste"** means solid waste resulting from the building or renovation of buildings, roads and other man-made structures. Construction debris includes, but is not limited to, materials such as plasterboard, cement, dirt, wood, and brush.

"Contract carrier" means a person holding a certificate issued by the commission authorizing transportation of solid waste for collection and/or disposal under special and individual contracts or agreements.

"Control" means the ability, directly or indirectly, to control management or policies of a company, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise.

"Demolition waste" or **"demolition debris"** means solid waste resulting from the demolition or razing of buildings, roads and other man-made structures. Demolition waste includes, but is not limited to, concrete, brick, bituminous concrete, wood and masonry, composition roofing and roofing paper, steel, and minor amounts of other metals like copper.

"Disinfect" means to cleanse by destroying harmful microorganisms.

"Disposal site" means the location where any final treatment, utilization, processing, or deposit of solid waste occurs. This term includes, but is not limited to, landfills, transfer stations, and incinerators.

"Dump truck operator" means a carrier holding a permit under chapter 81.80 RCW engaged in the operation of dump trucks and similar vehicles used in the

transportation of sand, gravel, dirt, debris, and other similar commodities except solid waste. Dump truck operations are usually conducted during the daytime; are local in character; are somewhat seasonal, especially in connection with building or construction projects; and the value of the commodity transported is usually low.

"Filing" means any application, petition, tariff proposal, annual report, comment, complaint, pleading, or other document submitted to the commission.

"Garbage" means those materials of solid waste that are putrescible.

"Garbage and refuse." Whenever the phrase "garbage and refuse" is used as a qualifying phrase, it means either garbage or refuse, or both garbage and refuse.

"Hazardous waste" means any material that is subject to the Hazardous Waste Manifest Requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency specified in 40 CFR Part 262.

"Incineration" means to reduce the volume of solid waste by use of an enclosed device using controlled flame combustion.

"Incinerator" means a site where solid waste is reduced in volume by use of an enclosed device using controlled flame combustion.

"Landfill" means a disposal facility or part of a facility at which solid waste is placed in or on land and which is not a land-treatment facility.

"Land-treatment facility" means the site on which the practice of applying dangerous waste onto or incorporating dangerous waste into the soil surface so that it will degrade or decompose takes place. The term does not include applying waste onto or into the soil surface for the purpose of soil sweetening or soil amendment.

"Leachate" means water or other liquid that has been contaminated by dissolved or suspended materials due to contact with solid waste or gases.

"Motor vehicle" means any truck, trailer, semi-trailer, tractor or any self-propelled or motor-driven vehicle used on any public highway of this state for the purpose of transporting solid waste for collection and/or disposal.

"Multiple-family residence" or **"multifamily residence"** means any structure housing two or more dwelling units.

"Multifamily service" means residential service provided to multifamily structures or locations including, but not limited to, duplexes, apartments, mobile home courts, and condominiums.

"Nonputrescible" means not capable of being readily decomposed by microorganisms.

"Occasional" means occurring at irregular and infrequent intervals. The term is qualitative, not quantitative, in that the term applies to services that are only performed from time-to-time, not that the solid waste hauling is only a small part of services offered.

"Packer" means a device or vehicle specially designed to compress loose materials.

"Person" means an individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, lessee, receiver, trustee, consortium, joint venture, or commercial entity.

"Private carrier" means a person who transports solid waste in the person's own vehicle purely as an incidental adjunct to some other established private business owned or operated by that person in good faith.

EXCEPTION: A person who transports solid waste from residential sources in a vehicle designed or used primarily for the transport of solid waste is not a private carrier.

"Private mot or vehicle" means a vehicle owned or operated by a private carrier.

"Private road" means a road not normally available for use by the public.

"Public highway" means every street, road, or highway in this state normally available for use by the public.

"Putrescible" means capable of being readily decomposed by microorganisms.

"Recyclable materials" means materials that are transported for recycling, reprocessing, reclamation, or for any process that extracts or modifies the commodity for reuse or another commercially valuable purpose.

"Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration.

"Refuse" means those materials of solid waste that are not putrescible.

"Residence" means the regular dwelling place of an individual or individuals.

"Residential authority" means authority to provide solid waste collection from residences.

"Residential recycling service" means collection of those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse, such as paper, plastic, metals, and glass, that are identified as recyclable materials pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan.

"Residential service" means solid waste collection from residences.

"Sewer sludge" means a semisolid substance consisting of settled sewage solids combined with varying amounts of water and dissolved materials, generated from a wastewater treatment system, that does not meet the requirements of chapter 70.95J RCW, and is transported to a site for disposal.

"Shipping paper" means a shipping order, bill of lading, manifest, or other shipping document serving a similar purpose and containing the information required in WAC 480-70-401 ([Payment options](#)).

"Small business" means any company that has fifty or fewer employees.

"Solid waste" or **"solid wastes"** means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to:

Garbage;
Rubbish;
Refuse;
Swill;
Ashes;
Industrial wastes;
Sewage sludge;
Demolition and construction wastes;
Abandoned vehicles or parts of abandoned vehicles; and
Source-separated recyclable materials collected from single and multifamily residences.

"Solid waste collection" means collecting solid waste from residential or commercial customers and transporting the solid waste, using a motor vehicle, for collection and/or disposal over the highways of the state of Washington for compensation.

"Solid waste collection company" means every common carrier, including a contract carrier, who provides solid waste collection service.

"Source separation" means the separation of different kinds of solid waste at the place where the waste originates.

"Specialized solid waste collection company" means a company providing other than traditional solid waste collection service. Specialized companies generally haul specific waste products for specific customers, provide only on-call or nonscheduled service, or provide accessorial services not normally provided by traditional solid waste collection companies.

"State" means the state of Washington.

"Subsidiary" means any company that the solid waste company directly or indirectly controls.

"Suspension" means an act by the commission to temporarily withhold a solid waste collection company's certificated authority; or an act by the commission to withhold approval of a company's tariff filing.

"Tariff" means a document issued by a company, and approved by the commission, containing the services provided, the rates and charges the company bills its customers for those services, and the rules describing how the rates and charges apply.

"Tariff service territory" means a company-defined geographic division of its certificated authority in which a specific tariff applies.

"Third-party waste broker" means a person or company acting on behalf of a generator of solid waste, usually an industrial or commercial generator, to arrange for collection and/or disposal of solid waste.

"Traditional solid waste collection company" means a company engaged in collecting and removing solid waste and recyclable materials from private homes, and/or removing solid waste from commercial establishments, industrial facilities, and other sites. Solid waste is normally picked up on a daily, weekly, or other regular basis. Drivers are usually assigned designated routes to collect curbside residential solid waste or transport cans or containers for commercial businesses. Unless the company's certificate is restricted against doing so, a traditional solid waste collection company may also perform specialized solid waste collection service.

"Transfer station" means a staffed, fixed supplemental facility used by persons and route collection vehicles to deposit solid wastes into transfer trailers for transportation to a disposal site. The definition does not usually include detachable containers. However, in counties with a population of less than seventy thousand, and in any county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand that is located east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range, if detachable containers are securely fenced, staffed by an attendant during all hours when the detachable container is open to the public, and tipping fees that cover the cost of providing the containers and the use of the facility are charged, then such detachable containers constitute a transfer station. (Refer to RCW 36.58.030).

"Treatment" means incineration, sterilization, or other method, technique, or process that changes the character or composition of a biomedical waste so as to minimize the risk of transmitting an infectious disease by making it noninfectious. Any waste, except sharps, that has been treated is not considered biohazardous or biomedical waste, and may be considered to be solid waste for purposes and handling.

"Vehicle" means every device capable of transporting solid waste on a public highway. The term "vehicle" does not include devices moved by human or animal power or used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks.

"Yard waste" or **"yard debris"** means plant material commonly created in the course of maintaining yards and gardens and through horticulture, gardening, landscaping, or similar activities. Yard waste includes, but is not limited to, grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, weeds, flowers, roots, windfall fruit, and vegetable garden debris.

WAC 480-70-051 Exemptions from rules [in chapter 480-70 WAC](#). ~~(1) The commission may grant an exemption of any rule in this chapter, when doing so is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.~~

~~(2) To request a rule exemption, a person must file with the commission a written request identifying the rule for which an exemption is sought, giving a full explanation of the reason for requesting the exemption.~~

~~(3) The commission will assign the request a docket number, if it does not arise in an existing docket, and will schedule the request for consideration at one of its regularly scheduled open meetings or, if appropriate under chapter 34.05 RCW, in an adjudication. The commission will notify the person requesting the exemption, and other interested persons, of the date of the hearing or open meeting when the commission will consider the request.~~

~~(4) In determining whether to grant the request, the commission may consider whether application of the rule would impose undue hardship on the petitioner, of a degree or a kind different from hardships imposed on other similarly situated persons, and whether the effect of applying the rule would be contrary to the purpose of the rule.~~

~~(5) The commission will issue an order granting or denying the request or setting it for hearing pursuant to chapter 480-09 WAC.~~

The commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in this chapter consistent with the standards and according to the procedures set forth in WAC 480-07-110 (Exceptions from and modifications to the rules in this chapter; special rules).

PART ~~2~~—II—ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATORY FEES

WAC 480-70-066 Accounting requirements. (1) The commission publishes a uniform system of accounts (USOA) for solid waste collection companies. The commission supplies copies of the USOA on request.

(a) The USOA defines accounting, financial, and other procedures the commission uses to determine if rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

(b) The USOA contains accounting definitions, listings, and explanations of balance sheet and income statement accounts.

(2) The commission recommends companies maintain their financial and accounting records in concurrence with the USOA. Regardless of what accounting system a company uses, the company must maintain its books and records in a manner sufficient to complete the commission-issued annual report form, using figures that reconcile with the USOA.

WAC 480-70-071 Reporting requirements. (1) **Annual reports.** An annual report is an end-of-the-year summary of financial and operational activity that each regulated company is required to file with the commission.

(a) Each year the commission provides an annual report form and instructions to each company at its address of record. Failure to receive the form does not relieve a company of its obligation to complete and file its annual report. A company that does not receive an annual report form must contact the commission to request a copy of the form.

(b) A company must file a complete, accurate annual report showing all requested information by May 1 of the succeeding year. Information provided on the annual report must agree with source documents maintained at company offices.

(c) The commission may grant an extension of time allowing the company to file its annual report after the May 1 due date if the commission receives a request for extension before May 1.

(d) The commission may issue penalty assessments or take action to suspend or cancel a certificate if a company fails to file its required annual report.

(e) A company selling, canceling, transferring, or in some other manner discontinuing operations must submit an annual report for that portion of the year in which the company operated.

(2) **Other reports.** The commission may require a company to file periodic or other special reports.

WAC 480-70-076 Regulatory fees. A regulatory fee is an annual assessment paid by each company to cover the costs of regulating the solid waste industry.

(1) The maximum regulatory fee is set by statute at one percent of gross intrastate operating revenue. Each year, the commission may set the regulatory fee at an amount less than the statutory maximum. The minimum fee can be no less than one dollar.

(2) A company must pay its regulatory fee by April 1 of each year.

(3) The commission does not grant extensions for payment of regulatory fees.

(4) If a company does not pay its regulatory fee by April 1, the commission will assess an automatic late fee of two percent of the amount due, plus one percent interest for each month the fee remains unpaid.

(5) The commission may issue penalty assessments, or take action to suspend or cancel a certificate, if a company fails to pay its regulatory fee.

WAC 480-70-077 Transferring cash or assuming obligations. (1) At least five business days, as defined in WAC 480-07-120 (Office hours), before a Class A company or the subsidiary of a Class A company transfers cash to any of its affiliated interests or

subsidiaries or assumes an obligation or liability of any of its affiliated interests or any of its subsidiaries, the company must report an estimate of the amount to be transferred and the terms of the transaction to the commission if:

(a) A single transaction amount exceeds five percent of prior calendar year gross operating revenue; or

(b) Such transaction, together with all transactions with such subsidiary or affiliated interest over the preceding twelve months, exceeds five percent of prior calendar year gross operating revenue.

(2) The reporting requirement in this section does not include payments for:

(a) Federal and state taxes;

(b) Goods, services, or commodities;

(c) Transactions, attributed to the regulated entity, previously approved or ordered by the commission, other regulatory agencies, or the court; or

(d) Dividends to the extent the level of such dividends over a twelve-month period does not exceed the larger of:

(i) Net income during such period; or

(ii) The average level of dividends over the preceding three years; or

(e) Payments for sweep or cash management accounts. The foregoing provisions will have no application to sweep and cash management account transfers used to transfer funds to or from a subsidiary or affiliate as part of the customary and routine cash management functions between or among the utility and its subsidiary or affiliate.

WAC 480-70-078 Affiliated interest—Contracts or arrangements. Prior to the effective date of any contract or arrangement described in RCW 81.16.020, each solid waste collection company must file a verified copy or a verified summary, if unwritten, of contracts or arrangements with affiliated interests. Prior to the effective date of any modification or amendment, the company must file verified copies of the modifications or amendments to the contracts or arrangements. If the contract or arrangement is unwritten, the company must file a verified summary of any modification or amendment. The commission may institute an investigation and disapprove the contract or arrangement if the commission finds the company has failed to prove that it is reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

WAC 480-70-079 Affiliated interest and subsidiary transactions report. (1) By June 1 of each year each Class A company must file a report summarizing all transactions that occurred between the company and its affiliated interests, and the company and its subsidiaries, during the period January 1 through December 31 of the preceding year.

(2) The information required in this subsection must be for total company and for total state of Washington. The report must include a corporate organization chart of the company and its affiliated interests and subsidiaries.

(3) When total transactions with an affiliated interest or a subsidiary are less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the reporting period, the company must provide the name of the affiliated interest or subsidiary participating in the transactions and the total dollar amounts of the transactions. When total transactions with an affiliated interest or subsidiary equal or exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the reporting period, the company must provide:

(a) A balance sheet and income statement for each affiliated interest;

(b) A description of the products or services provided to or from the company and its affiliated interests, and the company and its subsidiaries;

(c) A description of the pricing basis or costing method, and procedures for allocating costs for such products or services, and the amount and accounts charged during the year;

(d) A description of the terms of any loans between the company and its affiliated interests and the company and its subsidiaries and a listing of the year-end loan amounts and maximum loan amounts outstanding during the year;

(e) A description of the terms and total amount of any obligation or liability assumed by the company for any affiliated interest or subsidiary;

(f) A description of the activities of the affiliated interests and subsidiaries with which the company has transactions; and

(g) A list of all common officers and directors between the affiliated interest and subsidiary companies and the solid waste company along with their titles in each organization.

(4) The company is obligated to file verified copies of affiliated interest contracts and arrangements as stated in WAC 480-70-078 (Affiliated interests—Contracts or arrangements).