



Draft Blue Box Regulation Overview

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Background

- The Blue Box Regulation is the final existing provincial diversion program to transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- New EPR regulations are already in place for used tires, batteries and electronics (takes effect January 1, 2021)
- A draft regulation for the diversion of Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste is expected this fall for July 1, 2021 implementation



Proposed Designated Materials

To ensure people can put more products in their Blue Box and make recycling as easy as possible, the ministry is proposing a consistent list of materials that residents can recycle at more locations.



DESIGNATED

The following items, where made from paper, metal, glass, plastic, compostable materials, or any combination of these materials:

- Packaging, including aerosol containers
- Printed and unprinted paper
- Single-use packaging-like products, like foils, wraps, trays, boxes, bags
- Single-use food and beverage service items like straws, cutlery, plates, food service ware



NOT INCLUDED

- Packaging, single-use packaging-like products, and single-use food and beverage service products that are made primarily from other materials, such as wood, textiles, wax
- Any materials designated under a different diversion regulation (e.g. automotive oil containers)
- Garbage bags
- Books and hardcover periodicals
- Paper fibres used for sanitary purposes (e.g. tissues, paper towel)
- Items intended for disposal in a sewage works (e.g. toilet paper)
- Biomedical or hazardous waste (e.g. pressurized containers)

Responsible Producer and Servicing

- The draft regulation establishes a hierarchy of producers subject to the regulation
 - Those with the closest connection to the product
 - Captures retailers outside of Ontario that sell via the internet to Ontario
 - Excludes those with less than \$2M annual sales
- All communities with existing programs are eligible to transition between 2023 – 2025 – includes all residences and multi-residential, schools, long-term care and retirement homes and municipal public spaces/parks receiving municipal garbage collection
- In 2026 and beyond, non serviced multi-residential, schools, long-term care homes can request service

Servicing Requirements

- Curbside collection is maintained for residences currently receiving curbside
- During transition municipal programs remain unchanged – collection frequency, materials accepted, types of receptacles used
- Post transition (2026) producers must:
 - Provide collection at least every other week
 - Collect a common list of materials across Ontario
 - Collect all blue box material on a single day (i.e. not containers one day, paper/cardboard a different day)
 - Provide a receptacle to every residence before the start of collection
 - Provide a replacement receptacle at least once per year within one week of request

Blue Box Management Requirements

Target Category	Existing Diversion Rates (2018)	Stage 1: 2026-2029 Potential Target	Stage 2: From 2030 Potential Target
Paper	72%	90%	90%
Rigid Plastic	48%	55%	60%
Flexible Plastic	7%	30%	40%
Glass	68%	75%	85%
Metal	54%	67%	75%
Overall Diversion Rate(not a target)	60%	76%(projected)	79%(projected)

- This is the minimum amount of a material the producer is required to manage.
- Only recovered resources count toward meeting the target – must be recovered for re-use or use in new products or packaging

Durham Region Impacts



- Transition:

- A transition schedule is included in the draft regulation
- Council requested a July 1, 2023 transition date
- Durham currently has a 2024 transition with a specific date to be provided in the final regulation



- Business Improvement Areas

- Region currently collects garbage, blue box and green bin from small businesses in local municipality downtowns
- These areas are excluded from the regulation

Durham Region Impacts

- Compostable Packaging



- Compostable packaging is included in the regulation with limited definition and no management targets
- Concern that many packaging types can be considered compostable and this will lead to producers avoiding obligations to manage this packaging – pizza boxes, coffee cups, egg cartons, drink trays, etc.

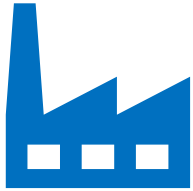
- Promotion and Education



- Regulation requires one piece of communication delivered by mail annually and a website
- Durham currently provides significantly more promotion of the blue box program

Durham Region Impacts

- Material Recovery Facility
 - Region will no longer be responsible for managing the garbage residue generated at the MRF resulting in approximately 3,000 tonnes per year of additional DYEC capacity
 - No regulated role for municipalities or the infrastructure municipalities maintain
 - Unknown if producers will need or want the use of the Region's MRF



Conclusion

- This is a good regulation that municipalities have been advocating for years
- Should improve the blue box system in Ontario by providing a common collection system of materials collected and locations eligible for collection
- Management targets are high and increase over time – this should lead to innovation and investment by producers
- Provides certainty for municipal planning for transition



Questions?

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