

# Understanding MMRP

## Questions and Answers

**Q1: What is the Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP)? Why did the government go this route?**

A: As communities grow, so does the amount of waste generated. MMRP is a sustainable approach to managing waste in Saskatchewan. Larger and medium-sized businesses and organizations that supply or distribute packaged goods and paper to households in the province will now share with municipalities the responsibility for the cost of recycling these materials.

**Q2: Who is Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW)? What is its role?**

A: MMSW is a non-profit organization that operates similar programs in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. MMSW acts on behalf of Saskatchewan businesses that produce, sell or distribute residential packaging and paper to Saskatchewan consumers, ensuring businesses meet the regulatory obligations.

A: Saskatchewan businesses or organizations that supply or distribute packaging or printed paper to Saskatchewan households are required to register with MMSW, report their annual tonnage of packaging and paper produced or distributed, and pay fees based on that tonnage. These business or organizations are also referred to as industry stewards (stewards). Some exemptions apply.

**Q3: How do I know if I have to participate in MMRP?**

A: Please see this flow-chart “Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) – Is your Business Obligated?” (need to hyperlink later) for further explanation.

A: Under The Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Regulations, producers, sellers and distributors (stewards) of packaging and paper are responsible for their waste. A steward is:

- a Saskatchewan-based brand owner of packaging or paper; or
- the Saskatchewan business that brings the packaging or paper into Saskatchewan, if the brand owner is not based in Saskatchewan.

A: A brand owner is the owner or licensee of a trademark that is used in association with or marked on paper and packaging.

A: If your business or organization fits under either of the above criteria, you are required to participate. Businesses are required to report their packaging and paper tonnage and pay fees based on the reported amount.

**Q4: When did the program begin? What is the change effective January 1, 2017 for medium-sized businesses?**

A: The program began January 1, 2016 for all businesses with a minimum of \$5 million in annual revenue. Starting January 1, 2017, medium-size businesses with annual revenues over \$2 million are required to fully participate in MMRP. This means registering with MMSW, reporting the total tonnage of obligated packaging and paper produced, and paying a fee per tonne to MMSW.

**Q5: What is the exemption for small business?**

A: There are exemptions for Saskatchewan-based small businesses that have a single point of retail sale, or generate less than \$2 million gross revenue annually, or produce less than one tonne of packaging and paper annually. If you meet one of the criteria, MMRP does not apply to you.

**Q6: Where can I get help if I need to know how to determine my tonnage?**

A: The Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance publishes a guidebook helping businesses understand the program. The guidebook is [here](#). After referring to the guidebook, if you still have questions, please call MMSW directly at 1-888-980-9549 or you can email [stewards@multimaterialsw.ca](mailto:stewards@multimaterialsw.ca).

**Q7: Can you explain how the program works for chains and franchises?**

A: A franchise company or chain would submit one registration and report on behalf of all of their individual operations throughout the province. Each individual business operation will not need to register or report.

**Q8: I buy my paper from a business in Saskatchewan. Because that business is the distributor/supplier of the paper, am I still required to participate in MMRP when using that paper as part of my business operation?**

A: You are required to pay a fee on the amount of paper you distribute to Saskatchewan households that has your name on it, such as advertising, invoicing or mailers. If you use the paper in your business operation, that paper would not be included in your MMRP tonnage.

**Q9: I already pay for recycling; why do I have to pay for it again?**

A: If you are paying for recycling right now, you are paying for recycling the waste you produce as part of your business operations; essentially, the waste that “goes out the back door” of your business.

A: MMRP is about the packaging and paper that goes out the front door and home with the customer. MMRP will address products that are recycled through programs operated by municipalities or regional waste authorities. Instead of these programs being funded by taxpayers, they will now be funded by product manufacturers and potentially consumers who purchase the product.

**Q10: Is this just a tax on businesses?**

A: No, it is not a tax on businesses. A business can decide if it wants to cover the cost of recycling a product by adjusting the price of that product when it is first sold. MMRP will encourage brand owners to incorporate the cost of recycling the product's packaging into the purchase price, thus passing on the cost of recycling to the consumer. MMRP may also encourage manufacturers to design their products in a fashion that makes them more recyclable.

**Q11: Why does the government want to change the current recycling structure where municipalities pay for the cost of recycling in their communities?**

A: For many years, municipalities paid 100% of the cost of recycling in their community. MMRP shifts a portion of the cost of recycling packaging and paper material from the taxpayer to the producers and distributors of that product packaging and the consumer who purchases the product.

A: By shifting the cost to the producer of packaging and paper material, MMRP is intended to provide an incentive for producers/manufacturers to potentially re-think the way the products are packaged. In turn, it may encourage consumers to rethink the products that they purchase as a result.

A: The end result will be highly economical to communities because MMRP will help to reduce the amount of household waste going into municipal landfills as well as protecting our environment and quality of life for Saskatchewan residents.

**Q12: Is it mandatory for a business to sign up with MMSW?**

A: The regulations state that a business may develop its own program and submit a management plan to the Minister of Environment for approval or a business can join a stewardship group such as MMSW that is operating a program on its behalf.

A: MMSW is the only group that submitted a management plan under the regulations. In order to meet the requirements under the regulations, businesses do need to join MMSW unless they fall under the small business exemption.

**Q13: Who is going to make sure businesses participate?**

A: The Ministry of Environment is responsible for enforcement of the program. The ministry intends to first ensure that businesses are aware of their obligations under the program and educate them on the requirements for participation. The ministry will rely on information from MMSW as to who is participating. The ministry has various means to enforce participation, and will assess each circumstance individually and escalate according to the situation.

For more information regarding registering, reporting or fees, please visit MMSW's website at [www.mmsk.ca](http://www.mmsk.ca)