

Approval

The Management Method for the Reuse of Biosolids has been amended by the Director, Environment Protection Authority in accordance with regulation 19(2) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020* and is an approved management method for the purposes of regulations 6(1)(b), 8(2)(b) and 18(1)(b).

Date of commencement

This Approved Management Method takes effect on the date on which notice of its approval is published in the *Tasmanian Government Gazette*.

Interpretation

Definition of terms

In this AMM –

AMM means approved management method.

Biosolids means sewage sludge which has been sufficiently stabilised and graded to achieve Class 1 or Class 2 classification in accordance with the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines, and which may therefore be beneficially reused for its nutrient, soil conditioning and/or energy qualities. Biosolids are a General Waste and are subject to the requirements of regulation 18 of the Waste Management Regulations. Untreated sewage sludges, septic wastes, industrial or food processing sludges, animal manures, or abattoir wastes are not biosolids.

Biosolids Product means material containing any component of biosolids including undiluted biosolids in the form of liquid or cake, or derived materials such as compost, lime amended biosolids or pellets.

Biosolids Reuse Guidelines means the *Tasmanian Biosolids Reuse Guidelines June 2020* published by the Environment Protection Authority, Tasmania.

Contaminant Limiting Application Rate means the maximum rate at which biosolids can be applied to land without exceeding the Maximum Allowable Soil Contaminant Concentration.

Classification is the process of assigning biosolids products into classes based on their quality and in accordance with the requirements specified in the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines.

Class 1 Biosolids is material containing sewage sludge which has been treated, sampled and tested in accordance with the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines and has met Contaminant Grade A and Stabilisation Grade A criteria.

Class 2 Biosolids is material containing sewage sludge which has been treated, sampled and tested in accordance with the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines and has, as a minimum, met Contaminant Grade B and Stabilisation Grade B criteria.

Contaminant Grade is the grading category used to describe the quality of a biosolids product based on the concentration of contaminants within it.

Controlled Waste as defined in Section 3(1) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Director means the Director, Environment Protection Authority appointed in accordance with section 18 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Maximum Allowable Biosolids Application Rate means the maximum rate at which biosolids can be applied to land as determined in accordance with the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines.

Maximum Allowable Soil Contaminant Concentration means the recommended maximum concentration of a contaminant in a soil as specified in the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines.

Nitrogen Limiting Application Rate means the maximum rate at which biosolids can be applied to land without exceeding agronomic nitrogen requirements.

Producer means the person responsible for the operation of the treatment plant which produces sewage sludge or biosolids.

Reprocessor means the person responsible for receiving sewage sludge or biosolids from a producer and modifies the physical, chemical or microbiological form of the sewage sludge or biosolids to produce a biosolid or biosolids product suitable for beneficial use.

Reuse means to use biosolids for any purpose which utilises the material for its physical or chemical attributes.

Sewage Sludge is the solid, semi-solid or liquid residue generated during the treatment of sewage in a treatment works which has either not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines or has failed to meet Class 1 or Class 2 requirements of these Guidelines. Sewage sludge is a Controlled Waste under regulation 5(b) of the Waste Management Regulations.

Stabilisation Grade is the grading category used to describe the quality of a biosolids based on its microbiological characteristics, potential to attract vectors and potential to generate offensive odours.

Waste Management Regulations means the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020*.

Management Method

1. Testing of Sewage Sludge and Biosolids

- 1.1. Further to the requirements of regulation 6(3)(b) of the Waste Management Regulations, sewage sludge which is intended for reuse as biosolids must be treated and tested in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines to determine both the contaminant grade and stabilisation grade of the material.
- 1.2. The material must then be classified in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines.
- 1.3. Records must be made of testing conducted in accordance with this Section, which must include:
 - (i) the identity of the person or persons conducting sampling and analysis;
 - (ii) sampling method;
 - (iii) analysis (including verification) method;
 - (iv) analysis results; and
 - (v) classification and labelling (as required) of the tested material in accordance with the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines.
- 1.4. The records made in accordance with this Section must be retained by the producer or reprocessor of the sewage sludge for at least five years and made available to an authorized officer on request.

2. Storage and Transportation of Sewage Sludge and Biosolids

- 2.1. Sewage sludge and biosolids must be stored in an appropriately sealed container or banded area to adequately contain the material and prevent ground seepage, or effluent or leachate

run-off. Dewatered biosolids product may be stockpiled at a land application site in accordance with the requirements of section 11.2 of the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines.

- 2.2. Material intended for reuse must not be transported to the reuse site unless it has been tested and classified in accordance with the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines and found to meet the requirements of Class 1 or Class 2 Biosolids as relevant for the intended use.
- 2.3. Sewage sludge must not be moved from a site unless the controlled waste handler has been registered to transport sewage sludge under regulation 11 of the Waste Management Regulations.

3. Land Application of Class 1 and Class 2 Biosolids

- 3.1. For the purposes of regulation 18(1)(b) of the Waste Management Regulations, Class 1 and Class 2 biosolids may be applied to land for the purposes specified in the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines, subject to the following:
 - 3.2. Application of biosolids to land must be undertaken in accordance with the relevant requirements of Sections 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Biosolids Reuse Guidelines; and
 - 3.2. The person responsible for the end use of Class 1 or Class 2 Biosolids must ensure they have obtained any required approvals from Local Government;
 - 3.3. Class 1 Biosolids may be used:
 - 3.3.1. in the Home Garden or for Urban Landscaping without the need to determine the Maximum Allowable Biosolids Application Rate; and
 - 3.3.2. for all other land uses provided the Nitrogen Limiting Application Rate is complied with.
 - 3.4. Class 2 Biosolids may be used at a low rate without the need to determine the Contaminant Limiting Application Rate provided:
 - 3.4.1. the application site has not received biosolids in the previous three years;
 - 3.4.2. the application rate is less than 50 per cent of the Nitrogen Limiting Application Rate or 50 wet tonnes per hectare; and
 - 3.4.4. no further biosolids applications occur on the application site within three years of the date of the application.
- 3.5. All records of properties supplied with biosolids, quantities supplied, date of supply, land on which biosolids were applied, application rate and all information necessary to verify that biosolids application rates were in accordance with this AMM, must be maintained for at least five years.

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