



County of Fairfax, Virginia

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY

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Solid Waste Advisory No. 08-002

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Guidance for Collectors on New Vehicle Identification Requirement When Using Refuse Trucks for “Single-Stream” Recyclables Collection

The purpose of this Solid Waste Advisory is to provide guidance on how best to comply with a new requirement in Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code which affects solid waste collectors who use refuse trucks to collect recyclables. This practice is commonly referred to as “single stream” recycling.

Effective May 5, 2008, Section 109.1-5-6(g) of the County Code requires that “Vehicles permitted to collect refuse or designed and manufactured specifically for the collection of municipal solid waste shall not be used to collect recyclables unless they are clearly identified as such.”

In other words, if your company is using a rear-loading packer, a front-loading packer, or any other type of truck that collects trash or was designed to collect trash, the truck must be clearly marked as a recycling truck when being used to collect recyclables.

The intent of this provision is to make it easy for members of the public and County enforcement staff to tell (at a glance) the difference between a refuse truck collecting waste and recyclables mixed together (which violates County Code) and a truck that is collecting only recyclables (which is **NOT** a violation of Code).

Due to the many types of vehicle design and possible approaches to the required identification, the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) has not developed a specific required design or appearance for the newly required “single-stream recycling” identification. All that is intended by the new ordinance is that appropriate markings/signs are provided on the vehicle and that they are easy-to-see and clearly tell even a casual observer that the vehicle is being used to collect recyclables.

A good example of an acceptable single-stream recycling sign is attached - collectors are free to copy this design and minimum size specification, as it is pre-approved by the Fairfax County SWMP. Collection companies who wish to design their own sign are encouraged to submit their design to the SWMP for review and approval prior to the final printing and posting in vehicles. Designs to be submitted for SWMP review should include the actual graphic to be used, the stated size for the sign, and the planned number of signs and placement on each vehicle.

Although this provision became effective upon Board approval on May 5, 2008, the SWMP will not enforce it until July 1, 2008, giving solid waste collectors nearly 60 days to comply. If you are not able to meet this deadline, contact us in advance to establish a compliance schedule.

If there are questions about this Advisory, please contact Charles Forbes at 703-324-5230.

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