



April 16, 2020

Attention: Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan Inc.

A Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) audit was completed at the Loraas Recycle Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Saskatoon, on February 18th to 20th, 2020. The purpose of this audit was to further analyze the recycling behaviors of our customers within Central and Northern Saskatchewan. Focus was on residential customers, and the data gathered detailed information about non-accepted HHW being placed in recycling programs that may or may not be accepted in other diversion programs across the province.

Currently, Loraas Recycle's single stream recycling program only accepts household packaging materials including: paper, cardboard, household tin, household aluminum, household glass (Saskatoon only), and recyclable plastics #1 to #7. Nineteen categories of prohibited HHW items were identified, modelled off of HHW collection programs within Saskatchewan; specifically, City of Saskatoon. Containers with warning labels are technically not allowed in Loraas' program, however some plastic containers that are fully rinsed or are deemed to have a lower risk of reactivity are allowed. These include, but are not limited to, empty containers of household soaps and detergents, window cleaner, etc. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, empty containers of insecticides, pesticides, agricultural fertilizers, adhesives, paint, solvents, etc.

The goal of this audit was to identify potential areas of concern in terms of prohibited HHW items in the household recycling stream. The audit results showed that the Loraas Recycle MRF (Material Recovery Facility) sees an average of 10 HHW items per hour and 606 HHW items within a five and a half hour processing period. It was concluded that 30% of the HHW items collected during this audit are currently accepted in most Saskatchewan HHW recycling programs, and 70% are not-accepted. Our results were as follows:

- The top HHW contaminates of concern included: (1) Human bodily fluid contaminated items (diapers, feminine hygiene products, disposable sanitary protection including masks and gloves), (2) Sharps (needles, razors), and (3) Aerosols (with warning labels/contents remaining);
- Our statistics indicate that we receive: (1) 4.86 items/minute of processing time of diapers/feminine hygiene products, (2) 3.30 items/minute of sharps, and (3) 2.47 items/minute of aerosols;
- For the category of "Human bodily fluid contamination", our auditing team determined we receive ~2,770 items per day, amounting to 700,860 items per year; and
- Pharmaceuticals came in 4th on each audit and included blister packs of medicine, prescription bottles with leftover pills and liquids, etc.

On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. Since then, the amount of "Human bodily fluid contaminated items" received at our MRF has grown considerably; visually our estimate is an increase of 20% to 50% since this declaration. With this information, Loraas has worked to put together an action plan to reduce risks for those working in the waste and recycling industry and provide additional information to the public.



We need your organization and its members to understand the problem that this high level of contamination is creating in keeping household recycling a sustainable program, and educate and promote proper waste handling for your communities and your residents. Public service announcements, community message boards, websites and social media channels should all be used at this point to let residents know that these items MUST be kept out of the household recycling programs in their communities. We can assist in educational information that allows you to get your messaging out clearly and quickly.

Thank you in advance for your help with this growing problem.

Sincerely,

Loraas Disposal North Ltd.

Aaron Beres
General Manager