



DATE: January 22, 2020

TO: BCMB Registrants

RE: **Biodegradable Containers**

Due to the worldwide focus on being 'green,' companies may have the opportunity or would like to sell and/or distribute biodegradable containers. If your company intends on selling and/or distributing a biodegradable container in Alberta, the BCMB must review the container prior to its registration as the enzymes in some biodegradable containers will contaminate the current material streams.

The BCMB will formally review any biodegradable beverage containers that are being considered for sale and/or distribution in Alberta. Prior to starting the review, the BCMB will request the following:

- Specifications document noting: container material, cap (lid) material, label material, weight of the container, weight of cap (lid), weight of the label;
- Specifications document noting the biodegradable enzyme and quantity/level per container;
- Container information: brand, flavor, size, and UPC (if applicable);
- Images of the front and back of the container;
- If the container is painted: composition of the paint;
- Whether the container has any special features (light up labels, attachments, inserts, etc.);
- A sample container (including labeling) sent to the ABCRC.

Once the BCMB reviews the container, we will advise if the container can be recycled without contaminating the current material streams. All beverage containers are required to be recyclable in order to sell and/or distribute them in Alberta. Beverage containers are prohibited from entering landfills regardless of whether they are biodegradable.

Please forward this notice on to anyone in your company that this may be applicable to.

If your company has any biodegradable containers registered, please advise the BCMB immediately so a review may be completed.

If you have a question or require a container to be reviewed, please send the information above and/or any inquiries to:

Melissa Malin, BCMB
780-424-3193, ext. 234 OR 1-888-424-7671
mmalin@bcmb.ab.ca

