



BUSINESS RECYCLING FACT SHEET

RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTORY PUBLISHERS WHO DISTRIBUTE THEIR DIRECTORIES IN CONNECTICUT



Pursuant to Sections 22a-256y through 22a-256ee of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), directory publishers distributing their directories in Connecticut are required to meet annual usage goals for recycled content directory stock and are subject to requirements regarding the retrieval and recycling of a percentage of the directories they distribute.

WHY - The legislation was adopted in order to provide for increased waste stream reduction (collection and recycling of directories) and to support and promote markets for paper collected for recycling, thereby optimizing the effectiveness of Connecticut's recycling program and its waste reduction benefits.

According to the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)

(<http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=186>) 660,000 tons of phone books end up in landfills and incinerators across the country because people do not recycle them. And a report from EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/SWMGHGreport.html>) found that not publishing a phone book reduces greenhouse gages by about 3 times as much as recycling (as compared to landfilling).

APPLICABILITY - Requirements pertain to directory publishers which use more than 50 tons directory stock¹ in directories distributed annually in Connecticut. The first Public Act dealing with these requirements was passed in 1990 (P.A. 90-281) and amended in 1997 (P.A. 97-102).

RECYCLED FIBER USE AND DIRECTORY COLLECTION AND RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS -The following recycled fiber use requirements initially refer to all directory publishers as a group while the collection and recycling requirements refer to each directory publisher:

| RECYCLED FIBER USE REQUIREMENTS (to be met by all directory publishers as a group) | | REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF DIRECTORIES (to be met by each directory publisher) | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Year (Ending December 31) | Percentage Requirement of Recycled Fiber ² | Each Directory Publisher Not Meeting Standards for Recycled Fiber Use Requirements | Each Directory Publisher Meeting Standards for Recycled Fiber Use Requirements |
| | | Shall File a Plan with DEP Not Later Than 90 Days After Such Publication which Shall Provide for the Following Percent of Its CT Distributed Directories to Be Retrieved and Recycled | Shall Annually Retrieve and Recycle at Least 30% of Their Directories Distributed in Connecticut, <u>Unless</u> the DEP Commissioner Determines that: |
| 1999 | ≥ 30% | First Year of Publication (Not Later Than 90 Days After Such Publication) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ≥50% of CT Municipalities or ▪ ≥50% of CT IPC's |
| 2000 | ≥ 35% | Second Year of Publication | Accept & Recycle old telephone directories (OTD's) as Part of Their Recycling Program. |
| 2001 and Thereafter | ≥ 40% | Third Year of Publication and Thereafter | |

The percentage of recycled fiber should be calculated using the following equation:

¹ Directory stock is defined as paper used chiefly for printing directories and weighing >18 lbs and <26 lbs for 500 sheets of paper 24"x36" in size, on rolls that are not less 26" wide and 40" in diameter, and for 20 lb white directory stock, having a brightness of less than 57.

² Recycled fiber means fiber derived from post-consumer waste paper or waste paper resulting from printing operations

$$\frac{\% \text{ RECYCLED FIBER USED IN CALENDAR YEAR X}}{\text{TONNAGE OF RECYCLED FIBER USED IN DIRECTORIES DISTRIBUTED IN CT IN CALENDAR YEAR X}} = \frac{\text{TONNAGE OF DIRECTORY STOCK USED IN DIRECTORIES DISTRIBUTED IN CT IN CALENDAR YEAR X}}{\text{TONNAGE OF RECYCLED FIBER USED IN DIRECTORIES DISTRIBUTED IN CT IN CALENDAR YEAR X}}$$

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: On or before **March 1, 1996 and annually thereafter**, each directory publisher shall submit a report to the DEP relating the percentage of recycled fiber used in the preceding calendar year and any information required by DEP to determine compliance with the provisions of this legislation (the attached form should be used for the year ending December 31). The completed form should be returned to:

Judy Belaval
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Material Management & Compliance Assurance- Office of Source Reduction & Recycling
79 Elm Street - 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

PENALTIES: Should the directory publishers as a group not meet the annual quota for recycled fiber use in any year, then each directory publisher individually must meet the annual percentages for recycled fiber use for the remaining years. Failure to do so will result in fines of \$5/ton for the number of tons representing the shortfall. Such fines cannot be less than \$2,500 or more than \$100,000.

Failure to submit a form will carry the same penalties as failing to meet the percentage requirements.

ALLOWANCE for EXEMPTION FROM COMPLIANCE: Allowance for exemption from recycled fiber use requirements is based on inability to obtain sufficient quantities of directory stock with recycled fiber content at prices comparable to virgin stock; inability to obtain recycled directory stock within a reasonable time; or inability to obtain directory stock with recycled fiber content that is runable. A directory publisher applying for an exemption must follow the procedure described in Section 22a-256bb(b) of the CGS.

COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF DIRECTORIES: Directory publishers are required to file a plan (see summary on side 1 of this fact sheet) and retrieve & recycle a percentage of their distributed directories.

INCLUSION OF EXPENSES WHEN DETERMINING RATES: If the Department of Public Utility Control includes revenues generated by a directory publisher in determining rates which may be charged by a telephone company for telephone service, all expenses incurred by such directory publisher in meeting the requirements of this legislation shall be allowed to be included in its expenses for the purposes of determining its rate.

QUESTIONS? - Call Judy Belaval at (860) 424-3237.



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