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## Metro Regulated Material Recovery & Reloading Activities A Solid Waste Hauler Informational Bulletin

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Recently, a number of solid waste haulers have contacted Metro's Solid Waste & Recycling Department with an interest in conducting other regulated solid waste activities – such as operating a Material Recovery Facility (“MRF”) or a reload facility. Some haulers that collect mixed dry waste, like construction and demolition debris, or provide drop-box services have indicated such an interest. The purpose of this informational bulletin is to help answer some questions that have arisen.

### MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES

#### **What kind of MRFs are licensed by Metro?**

Metro recognizes two types of MRFs. One type is currently exempt from having to obtain a Metro license, while the other type requires a Metro license to operate. Both types of MRFs are subject to Metro inspections to verify their regulatory status.

- “Clean” MRF – This type of facility exclusively receives source-separated recyclable material (e.g. residential curbside and source-separated commingled recyclables). A clean MRF is not required to obtain a Metro license. (Refer to Metro Code Section 5.01.040(a)(3))
  
- “Dirty” MRF – This type of facility receives mixed dry waste and recovers recyclable material from the mixed waste through processing, picking and sorting out recyclables. A dirty MRF must have a Metro license to operate. (Refer to Metro Code Section 5.01.045(a)(1))

#### **Can I pick through my drop boxes and salvage recyclable materials like metal and wood without a Metro MRF license?**

No. This type of activity is only allowed if you have applied for and received a Metro license to operate a MRF. If you collect construction debris, demolition debris or other “dry waste” in drop boxes, and pick through it to salvage recyclable materials like metal and wood, you are conducting material recovery activities and must obtain a Metro license. Otherwise, the collected materials should be delivered to a Metro-authorized facility that recovers materials from mixed dry waste. There are several such facilities in the Metro region that are authorized to accept mixed dry waste. For the nearest facility and directions, contact the Metro Recycling Information Center at (503) 234-3000.

## RELOADING

Reloading is the activity of consolidating loads of solid waste into larger containers or vehicles for more efficient transportation to a recovery facility or a transfer station but not directly to a landfill or disposal site. Some types of reload activities are required to have a Metro license to operate.

### What kind of reloading is licensed by Metro?

Metro recognizes two types of waste reloading operations that may be conducted by a hauler. One type is currently exempt from having to obtain a Metro license, while the other type is required to obtain a Metro license. All reloads are subject to Metro inspections to verify their regulatory status.

- “Exempt” reload – This type of operation does not need a Metro license if the hauler holds a city or county franchise and reloads only solid waste loads collected from its franchised collection area (if collecting from more than one franchise area, then the areas must be contiguous). In addition, all reloaded waste must be delivered to a Metro-authorized MRF or transfer station. (Refer to Metro Code Section 5.01.040(a)(7))
- Regulated reload – All other reloading activities that do not meet the conditions of an exempt reload, including yard debris reloading and mixed dry waste reloading, require a Metro license to operate. (Refer to Metro Code Section 5.01.045(a)(3) and (4))

### Are certain hauling activities regulated by Metro?

Metro does not regulate the collection of solid waste and source-separated recyclable materials, or become involved in franchising haulers or setting rates. Cities and counties regulate the collection of solid waste and source-separated recyclable material.

Metro does, however, regulate certain solid waste activities conducted inside the Metro region including waste reloading, transfer stations, and MRFs that recover recyclables from mixed loads of dry waste. Metro attempts to draw a regulatory line between collection activities that do not require a license and solid waste processing activities that do require a license. Haulers should also be aware that certain activities may also require city or county land use approval, and may require a solid waste permit from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

### How can I get more information?

Be aware that Metro has adopted new facility operating standards for a dirty MRF and dry waste reloads. These standards require such a facility to meet a number of operating requirements that include locating inside an enclosed building and on an impervious surface, such as asphalt or concrete.

For more Metro information on reloading, material recovery and Metro solid waste facility regulations, please contact Bill Metzler, Senior Solid Waste Planner at (503) 797-1666. You may also visit the Metro web site at [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org). Note that the DEQ may also require permits for certain activities regardless of Metro’s requirements. At the DEQ, please contact Amanda Romero for more information at (503) 229-5353.