



Saskatchewan Environmental Code: Transfer Station Chapter Quick Reference Guide

Purpose:

To provide an updated and efficient approach for the establishment of a transfer station in Saskatchewan that is responsive to new and evolving technologies.

Applies to:

Every person who owns or intends to establish a transfer station, with the exclusion of the following activities:

- (a) the exclusive temporary storage of solid waste within a container;
- (b) containers or facilities used for the purpose of recycling or processing under a stewardship program; or
- (c) storage of more than 50,000 kilograms of industrial waste, which requires a permit.

Legislative Authority: *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*

Previously regulated by: *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations (MRMR)*

Requirements remaining the same:	New or Changing Requirements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing requirements as outlined in the Ministry of Environment transfer station guidelines and other documents including site suitability report, design plan, construction verification, operations plan, emergency response plan and closure plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear requirements to employ industry best practices for low risk operations following the acceptable solution. • Streamlining from a permit application system to online registration to establish, construct, and operate a transfer station for facilities following the acceptable solution. • No requirement to submit annual reports. • No requirement to submit operations plans and emergency response plans for approval under the acceptable solution. • Engaging a qualified person to verify requirements of the chapter are met, rather than ministry staff review. • Encourages innovation in managing risk and methodologies and technologies. • Facilities that choose to propose an alternative solution submit proposed new methodologies and technologies for ministry

	<p>review and approval as part of an environmental protection plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditing acceptable solution for oversight.
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Key Provisions/Code Synopsis:

The Transfer Station Chapter defines results expected for the standard, low risk approach for establishment, construction, operation and closure of transfer stations in Saskatchewan while also allowing flexibility for diverse circumstances. Transfer stations established and operated in accordance with this chapter will allow for a reduced time spent on permitting and reporting. The chapter will provide clear and consistent requirements for transfer stations within Saskatchewan, with a results-based, industry specific approach ensuring protection of environment and public health.

Requirements include:

- a qualified person for the completion of reports and plans, including a qualified person certificate;
- submission of required documents to the Ministry of Environment online portal;
- maintenance of appropriate records for establishment and operations; and
- participation in inspections and audits as required by the ministry.

Standards Referenced in this Chapter:

- Discharge and Discovery Reporting Standard
- Qualified Person Certification Standard
- Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Standard

Frequently Asked Questions

Transfer Station Chapter

1. What is the purpose of this chapter?

- (a) To establish an updated and efficient approach to transfer station operations for Saskatchewan that is responsive to new and evolving technologies.
- (b) Ensure that transfer station operations do not cause adverse effects to the environment.
- (c) Meet the waste management needs of various communities.

2. Who does this chapter apply to?

Every person who owns or intends to establish a transfer station, with the exclusion of the following activities:

- the exclusive temporary storage of solid waste within a container;
- containers or facilities used for the purpose of recycling or processing under a stewardship program; or
- storage of more than 50,000 kilograms of industrial waste, which requires a permit.

3. Why is the ministry including the regulation of transfer stations in the code?

- (a) A common message coming out of the previous engagement on both the Solid Waste Management Strategy and *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations (MRMR)* was the need for consistent enforcement and application of rules and regulations to address matters related to waste management in Saskatchewan.

- (b) This chapter will reduce time spent on applying and reapplying for permits and submitting reports for ministry approval.
- (c) Technologies are rapidly evolving and methods are advancing that will result in practical and cost-effective alternatives in the near future.
- (d) This chapter reinforces the ability for owners to propose the use of new technologies and methods to establish and operate a transfer station.
- (e) Owners must demonstrate how a proposed new technology or method satisfies the results-based objective set out in the chapter.
- (f) Proposed new technologies and methods must be described in an environmental protection plan before it is approved.

4. How were transfer stations regulated previously?

Transfer stations in Saskatchewan were regulated through permits that were issued pursuant to MRMR and guidance documents that were based on best practices from other jurisdictions.

5. What is changing under this chapter?

This chapter:

- requires a qualified person for the completion of reports and plans, including a qualified person certificate;
- requires submission of required documents to the Ministry of Environment online portal;
- removes the requirement for annual reporting and submission of minor changes to operations plan and emergency response plan;
- removes the approval process for submissions under the acceptable solution, thereby decreasing wait times for establishment and operation of the transfer station;
- encourages innovation in transfer station design and operation methodologies and technologies; and
- requires proposed new methodologies and technologies be described in an environmental protection plan.

6. Does this chapter increase the administrative obligations of owners?

- (a) No. The requirements to prepare the required plans and maintain record keeping remains the same. Some instances may require a Qualified Person to be involved.
- (b) This chapter enables the adoption of practical and cost-effective alternatives as new technologies and methods for municipal solid waste management evolve.

7. Will owners need to comply with the chapter immediately?

No. A transition period will be provided for existing owners to provide notification under the chapter. New owners will be required to comply once the chapter is adopted.

8. What will the process and timelines look like?

- (a) For existing facilities, the notification process under the acceptable solution will include submitting the facility's current operations plan and emergency response plan. The facility will continue to operate.
- (b) For new facilities, the notification process under the acceptable solution will include submitting the site suitability report, design plan, construction verification report, operations plan and emergency response through the online portal. Once the owner receives the

notification number, operation of the facility may commence. There will be no requirement to obtain an approval or permit.

- (c) For existing or new facilities, the notification process under the alternative solution will include submitting the required reports and plans for review and approval by the ministry. The facility will be required to obtain approval prior to operation of the facility. Currently, review times are approximately 6-8 weeks, although due to the potential for amendments being required the time to approve the construction of a facility could take 4-5 months.
- (d) For all facilities under the acceptable solution, no further reporting or submissions are required until closure or unless requested by the ministry. The facility should continue to review operations and expansion to ensure they remain under the acceptable solution. Should operations or design change and proceed with the alternative solution, the owner will be required to submit the necessary documents for approval by the ministry.
- (e) For all facilities under the alternative solution, reporting or submissions are required as per the chapter.

9. How will this impact existing transfer stations?

Existing transfer station owners will be required to provide notification through the online portal which will include filling out a form and uploading required documents. A notification number will be generated that will identify a registered transfer station for the lifetime of the facility. Existing transfer stations will not be required to comply with the siting, design and construction requirements unless the owner is expanding the transfer station. All other requirements apply. The deadline for notification of existing transfer stations will be six months from when the chapter is implemented.

10. Will the ministry verify that the technology and methodology to establish and operate a transfer station is appropriate for its intended use?

Yes. An environmental protection plan submitted under the alternative solution will be reviewed and approved by the ministry. The ministry will conduct inspections and audits on facilities in both the acceptable and alternative solution to ensure the design, construction, operations and closure meet the results-based objectives throughout the life of the facility.

11. Who may be considered a qualified person for the activities regulated by this chapter?

There are options within the various section of the chapter where a qualified person is required. These can include:

- a person licensed to practise professional engineering or professional geoscience pursuant to *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*;
- a person who is a practising member as defined in *The Agrologists Act, 1994*;
- a person who is an applied science technologist pursuant to *The Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act* who has 8 years of experience in the area of work to be performed that is recognized by the Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians; or
- an individual who is designated by the Minister or who is a member of a class of persons designated by the Minister pursuant to the Act to undertake the activity.

12. Is there other guidance available for Transfer Stations?

- a) There is currently guidance available on transfer station design, operation and closure.
- b) A guidance document will accompany the Transfer Station Chapter once it is implemented to answer frequently asked questions and provide more details on known best practices including an example of an operations plan and emergency response plan.