

# Saskatchewan Environmental Code

## Questions and Answers

### 1. What is the Saskatchewan Environmental Code?

The Saskatchewan Environmental Code (code) defines the desired outcomes and empowers the operator to find the most appropriate methods and processes to achieve those outcomes.

The code is a consolidation of chapters appended to *The Environmental Management and Protection (Saskatchewan Environmental Code Adoption) Regulations* and *The Forest Resource Management (Saskatchewan Environmental Code Adoption) Regulations*. The code is intended to provide a convenient reference that includes the full text of the chapters. The 16 chapters contained in the first edition of the code cover a range of activities including air, land and water protection, industrial and municipal activities and forest management.

### 2. What Chapters are in the Saskatchewan Environmental Code?

The first edition of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code contains the following sixteen chapters:

- Adoption of Standards
- Discharge and Discovery Reporting
- Site Assessment
- Corrective Action Plan
- Transfer of Responsibility for an Environmentally Impacted Site
- Substance Characterization
- Water Main
- Sewage Main
- Hydrostatic Testing
- Forest Regeneration Assessment
- Forest Data Submission
- Forest Operating Plan
- Forest Products Scaling
- Forest Management Planning
- Halocarbon Control
- Industrial Source (Air Quality)

### 3. Why do we need the Saskatchewan Environmental Code?

The purpose of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code (code) is to enhance environmental protection and resource management by providing regulatory clarity while fostering innovation, economic growth and social benefits.

As our population and economy continue to grow, so too does the demand for our resources and the pressures on our air, land and water. Rapidly advancing technology, the demand for more specialized expertise and the accelerated pace of development has challenged the ministry's ability to be as effective. The ministry's focus has changed to an important question for which every activity that has an impact on our environment requires an answer—what is the desired outcome the regulated proponent needs to achieve?

The Saskatchewan Environmental Code (code) defines the desired outcomes and empowers the operator to find the most appropriate methods and processes to achieve those outcomes.

#### 4. Where can I find the Saskatchewan Environmental Code?

The consolidated code chapters are available at: [insertwebsiteaddress](#).

Legal copies of the acts, regulations (including the chapters) are available in print and electronic form from the Saskatchewan Queen's Printer:

Queen's Printer  
B19, 3085 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada  
S4S 0B1  
Phone: (306) 787-6894  
Website: [www.qp.gov.sk.ca](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca)

#### 5. When will the code be implemented?

The chapters respecting the forestry industry will be implemented January 5, 2015:

- Adoption of Standards
- Forest Regeneration Assessment
- Forest Data Submission
- Forest Operating Plan
- Forest Products Scaling
- Forest Management Planning

The chapters respecting environmental management and protection will be implemented June 1, 2015:

- Adoption of Standards
- Discharge and Discovery Reporting
- Site Assessment
- Corrective Action Plan
- Transfer of Responsibility for an Environmentally Impacted Site
- Substance Characterization Chapter
- Water Main
- Sewage Main
- Hydrostatic Testing
- Halocarbon Control
- Industrial Source (Air Quality)

#### 6. What do I do until the code is implemented?

Until the new and revised acts and regulations are implemented, environmental protection and resources management activities in Saskatchewan will fall under the existing permitting and licencing processes.

#### 7. Why are the chapters being implemented at different times?

The chapters are derived from two separate pieces of legislation: *The Forest Resources Management Act*; and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*. As such the legislation and associated regulations are not dependent on each other and can be implemented at different times.

The forestry sector is ready to move forward with the results-based model and requested a short time to prepare for implementation.

A few stakeholders in the environmental management and protection sector requested a longer time to prepare for implementation.

#### 8. Why is the Landfill and Transfer Station Chapters not included?

The Landfill and Transfer Station Chapters were removed due to concerns raised by stakeholders with respect to unknown costs and liabilities.

Landfills and transfer stations will continue to be regulated through permitting and inspections, until a provincial solid waste management strategy is developed.

## **9. Why is the Liquid Domestic Waste Disposal Chapter not included?**

The Liquid Domestic Waste Disposal Chapter was removed due to concerns raised by stakeholders with respect to costs associated with landspreading of liquid domestic waste.

Liquid domestic waste disposal will continue to be regulated through permitting and inspections, until a strategy is developed.

## **10. What legal authority does the code have?**

The chapters of the code are adopted in *The Environmental Management and Protection (Saskatchewan Environmental Code Adoption) Regulations* and *The Forest Resources Management (Saskatchewan Environmental Code Adoption) Regulations* by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and therefore have the force of law. The enacting legislations adopting the code include *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* and *The Forest Resources Management Act*.

While the chapters cover a wide scope from resource management and environmental management and protection activities, they do not cover all activities regulated by the ministry. New or existing activities not covered in the code will continue to be regulated by existing regulations and processes.

## **11. What is it about the code that promotes flexibility and innovation?**

Often solutions to environmental protection and natural resource management are site-specific and non-standardized. The code authorizes the regulated community options on how to achieve compliance:

- Follow *Acceptable Solutions* (a predefined process); or
- Develop *Alternative Solutions* (plan developed by proponent), signed off by a qualified person and accepted by the Minister. This gives proponents the opportunity to bring forward innovative solutions that could be new to Saskatchewan or unique to their particular circumstances.

## **12. How was the code developed?**

The code was developed with unprecedented stakeholder involvement and leadership from companies, associations, government agencies, environmental organizations, municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, academia and private individuals.

A Code Development Committee oversaw the development of the code. The actual writing of the code was done by various Content Committees comprised of knowledgeable individuals representing key interested parties in a variety of environmental management and protection fields.

## **13. What is the role of the Code Development Committee (CDC)?**

The CDC was established in the summer of 2010 as a formal forum for exchanging ideas. It provides advice and guidance to the Minister on the content of the code and supporting materials. Comprised of stakeholder representatives, the CDC provides industry, environmental organizations and communities the opportunity to contribute directly to the development of the code.

## **14. How were the CDC members selected?**

The CDC members were selected for their unique talents and leadership skills they bring to the table. The members were chosen to represent a very diverse group and to stimulate broad-based discussions that are required to develop the code and make sure that the widest range of interests are served while keeping the group to a workable size.

The CDC is chaired by Wayne Clifton, President of Clifton Associates Ltd. The Vice Chair is Margaret Kuzyk, a National Building Code consultant.

**15. What is the role of the Qualified Persons Advisory Committee (QPAC)?**

The QPAC was formed in July 2011 to provide advice to the ministry on qualified persons required by the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. The qualified person(s) and associated requirements in the code were established by the QPAC.

**16. How were the QPAC members selected?**

The QPAC members were selected for their unique knowledge and leadership skills they bring to the table. The members were chosen to represent the various professional groups practicing environmental protection and resource management in the province.

**17. How will the regulated community learn to work with the code?**

The ministry will provide training sessions for the regulated community, although the nature and schedule of this training has not yet been developed.

In addition, a Client Service Office (CSO) has been established within the Ministry of Environment. The CSO is intended for clients, particularly first time entrants, who are looking for information and advice on how to meet their regulatory obligations, which includes how the code applies to them.

For more information, contact:

RBR and Code Management Branch  
Ministry of Environment  
codesecretariat@gov.sk.ca  
306. 787. 9197

---

Updated: October 28, 2014