

Speak Up Now Or Pay More Later

On July 1st, 2010 the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) will create new rules and fees on many hazardous materials sold throughout Ontario. The MOE, under Minister John Gerretsen, will implement these levies through "Stewardship Ontario" as part of the "Waste Diversion Act." The fees are to aid in the costs of disposal from items brought to the Hazardous Waste Collections at our landfills. Items included on this list include batteries, paints, solvents, oil, oil filters, anti-freeze, etc., none of which are a direct concern to MGS Horticultural Inc. or other agricultural retailers. What concerns us about these levies is that through Stewardship Ontario fees will also be collected for the disposal of all fertilizers packaged in 30 kg or less. Currently, there is no data to suggest even one bag of fertilizer; farm or professional turf has made it to the Hazardous Waste collections.



The new levies will be assessed by a "market share statement" and be paid by the retailers through obligated reporting of our sales to Stewardship Ontario (MOE). Despite lobbying by the agricultural sector and farm groups including OFA, it appears that an exemption for Agriculture and/or Professional Turf will not be granted. The proposed fee has been as high as \$0.41/kg. In some cases, this levy would double the cost of the actual product.

At this time we do not know the final amount retailers like MGS Horticultural Inc. will have to pay. This puts us in a very difficult position as we may not know until just prior to the legislation taking effect (July 1, 2010) what the fees will actually be. We strongly encourage all of our customers to contact their MPP with concerns about these unwarranted levies and the unnecessary burden they will create for your operations.

This is the time for us to speak to our local members of parliament and have agricultural and commercial fertilizers exempt from this new levy. Below are some important links- please, get informed and voice your concerns!

<http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/stewards/stewards.html>

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Helping You Grow

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