

State Water Resources Control Board
Water Quality Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ
General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as
a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural and Land Reclamation
Activities (General Order)

1. State and Regional WRCBs must prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge of biosolids on land as a soil amendment. This General Order covers the following biosolids:
 - a. Class A biosolids not meeting requirements in 40 CFR 503.13 Table 3 and Class B biosolids that are applied for agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural and land reclamation activities
 - b. Exceptional Quality (EQ) biosolids-derived mixtures consisting of more than or equal to 50% biosolids (dry) applied at more **than 10 dry-tons per acre per year** to continuous plots greater than 20 acres for agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural and land reclamation where plots are owned by the same person, company or partnership
 - c. All EQ mixtures consisting of 50% biosolids or less (dry) applied at more than 20 dry-tons per acre per year to continuous plots greater than 20 acres for agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural and land reclamation activities where plots are owned by the same person, company or partnership
2. EQ biosolids may not require regulations in the future, but now is regulated at a high loading rate to discourage poor management and risk to the public and environment

Prohibitions

- The Discharge of biosolids is prohibited unless the discharger has submitted an NOI, filing fee and a pre-application report and in response to these submittals, the RWQCB has issued a Notice of Applicability, individual WDRs, or a waiver of WDRs for the discharge.
- Irrigation water runoff is prohibited for 30 days after application of biosolids if vegetation in the application area and along the path of runoff does not provide 33 feet of unmowed grass or similar vegetation to prevent the movement of biosolids from the application site.
- Discharge of biosolids with pollutant concentrations greater than the limitations outlined in 40CFR503 is prohibited.
- Application of biosolids to water-saturated or frozen ground or during periods of precipitation that induces runoff from the site is prohibited.
- Application of biosolids in areas where biosolids are subject to gully erosion or washout off site is prohibited.
- Application of biosolids to slopes exceeding 25% is prohibited.

Discharge Specifications

- All biosolids shall comply with applicable pathogen reduction standards in accordance with 40CFR503.32. **In addition**, all biosolids meeting Class A shall not have a max fecal coliform concentration greater than 1,000 MPN

per gram of biosolids, or the density of salmonella sp. Shall not be greater than three MPN per four grams.

- All biosolids shall comply with one of the applicable vector attraction reduction requirements specified in 40CFR503.33
- Biosolids application rates shall not exceed agronomic rate for nitrogen
- Biosolids less than 75% moisture shall not be applied during periods when the surface wind speed exceeds 25mph as determined by the nearest calibrated regional weather station
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