

# Gray Container Waste Evaluations at Transfer/Processing Facilities and Operations

This guidance summarizes the transfer/processing facility and operation requirements for waste evaluations on incoming material from the gray container collection stream. The gray container collection stream or “gray container waste” is defined as solid waste that is collected in a gray container and part of a three-container organic waste collection service that prohibits the placement of organic waste in the gray container, as specified in Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR), Section 18984.1(a) and (b). “Remnant organic material” is any organic waste that is found in the gray container collection stream.

**Beginning July 1, 2022**, transfer/processing facilities or operations that receive a gray container collection stream and more than 500 tons of solid waste from at least one jurisdiction annually, shall conduct waste evaluations on the gray container collection stream by performing the measurement protocol described in 14 CCR Section 17409.5.7.

Facility operators should evaluate the gray container waste stream before any processing activities are performed. The operator should take a composite sample from the entire gray container collection stream, and not on waste received from an individual jurisdiction.

The evaluations for the remnant organic material removed from the gray container waste inform CalRecycle about how much prohibited organic waste is being disposed. The data may be used to help gauge the accuracy of the jurisdiction’s waste composition studies and container contamination minimization results under Chapter 12 of the SB 1383 regulations. This may help provide an overview of how well jurisdictions and facilities are meeting relevant standards.

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## Gray Container Waste Evaluations (see 14 CCR [Section 17409.5.7](#))

Measure organic waste from the incoming gray container collection stream received prior to processing. The operator shall perform one gray container waste evaluation per quarter, for each of the four quarterly reporting periods per calendar year. Evaluations are conducted as follows:

### Step 1: Collect and Weigh Composite Sample.



- Collect a random composite sample, representative of a typical operating day of at least 200 pounds from incoming gray container waste (for example, taken either from various times during the operating day or from various locations within the pile).
- Record the weight of the sample = **A**

### Step 2: Remove and Weigh Remnant Organic Material.



- Remove and weigh remnant organic material from the sample.
- Remnant organic material is any organic waste that is collected in a gray container.
- Record the weight of remnant organic material = **B**

### Step 3: Calculate Ratio Remnant Organic Material in Sample.

- Use the weights recorded in the steps above to calculate the ratio of remnant organic material in the gray container sample.

$$\frac{\text{Weight remnant organic material in sample}}{\text{Weight of sample}} = \frac{\text{B lbs}}{\text{A lbs}} = \text{Ratio remnant organic material}$$

## **Record and Report Results to CalRecycle (see 14 CCR Sections [17414.2](#) and [18815.5](#))**

Operators must record the results of the sample conducted pursuant to Sections 17409.5.7.

Operators must report to CalRecycle the following:

- The average ratio of remnant organic waste to non-organic waste measured in the gray container waste evaluation samples performed by the facility.

## **Conducting Waste Evaluation Offsite**

The operator must provide written notification to the applicable enforcement agency to conduct offsite gray container waste evaluations at an alternative, permitted, or authorized solid waste facility or operation. The material cannot be processed prior to its transfer offsite for evaluation. The results of the offsite evaluation must be reported by the operator subject to the requirements, not reported by the alternative solid waste facility or operation.

## **Remnant Organic Material Handling (see [Section 17409.5.11](#))**

Remnant organic material removed from the gray container collection stream for recovery is not subject to the requirements of 14 CCR Sections 17409.5.1--17409.5.8, because the jurisdiction prohibits the placement of organic waste in the gray container.

Remnant organic material can be combined with recovered organic material only after the recovered material has gone through the measurement protocol described in 14 CCR Section 17409.5.4.