

## GRAY CONTAINER COLLECTION STREAM vs MIXED WASTE ORGANIC COLLECTION STREAM

The purpose of this table is to assist with differentiating between the **Gray Container Collection Stream** and **Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream**. These waste streams are classified based on the collection service provided by a jurisdiction. It is necessary for operators of transfer/processing activities to distinguish between these waste streams as there are specific operating standards (i.e., measurement requirements) that apply to their operation depending on what waste is received. It is suggested that facility operators should ask haulers to specifically identify the type of collection system they are operating under so that the operators understand how to classify the incoming streams.

The first two columns of the table below explain how the gray container that is used in the Collection System in 14 CCR Section 18984 should be classified at Transfer/Processing operations and facilities. The third column in the table also provides the applicable measurement requirements based on the stream. All references in the table are to [title 14 of the California Code of Regulations](#).

Collection System (Regulations)	Waste Stream Classification based on Collection Requirements (18984.1 – 18984.3 and 18984.12) & Transfer/Processing Definitions (17402)	Transfer/Processing Facility and Operation Measurement Requirements based on Waste Stream Classification
<b>18984.1(a):</b> Three-container collection service where organic waste is <u>not allowed</u> by the jurisdiction to go in the gray container. Any organic waste erroneously placed in this container is considered remnant organic material [17402(a)(24.5)]	Container material = <b>Gray Container Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(6.5)]	<b>17409.5.7:</b> Gray Container Waste Evaluations ( <i>if receiving more than 500 tons annually from a single jurisdiction</i> )
<b>18984.1(b):</b> Three-container collection service where organic waste is <u>not allowed</u> by the jurisdiction to go in the gray container and the contents may be transported to a facility that processes and recovers organic waste (i.e., the remnant organic material) from this container (i.e., transfer/processing activity).	Container material = <b>Gray Container Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(6.5)]	<b>17409.5.7:</b> Gray Container Waste Evaluations ( <i>if receiving more than 500 tons annually from a single jurisdiction</i> )
<b>18984.1(c):</b> Three-container collection service where organic waste is <u>allowed</u> by the jurisdiction to go in the gray container and the contents of the gray container must be transported to a High Diversion Organic Waste Processing Facility (HDOWPF).	Container material = <b>Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(11.5)]	<b>17409.5.2:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Recovery) <b>17409.5.3:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Disposal) <b>17409.5.8:</b> Incompatible Material Limit (Recovery)

Collection System (Regulations)	Waste Stream Classification based on Collection Requirements (18984.1 – 18984.3 and 18984.12) & Transfer/Processing Definitions (17402)	Transfer/Processing Facility and Operation Measurement Requirements based on Waste Stream Classification
<p><b>18984.2:</b> Two-container collection service where organic waste is <u>allowed</u> by the jurisdiction to go in the gray container and the contents of the gray container must be transported to a HDOWFP.</p>	<p>Container material = <b>Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(11.5)]</p>	<p><b>17409.5.2:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Recovery)  <b>17409.5.3:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Disposal)  <b>17409.5.8:</b> Incompatible Material Limit (Recovery)</p>
<p><b>18984.3:</b> Unsegregated single-container service where all material is placed in a gray container and the contents must be transported to a HDOWFP.</p>	<p>Container material = <b>Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(11.5)]</p>	<p><b>17409.5.2:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Recovery)  <b>17409.5.3:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Disposal)  <b>17409.5.8:</b> Incompatible Material Limit (Recovery)</p>
<p><b>18984.12(a) &amp;(c) Department-Issued Exemptions and Low Population Waivers:</b> The low population waiver and rural exemption allow for some or all organic waste to be disposed and placed in the gray container, depending on the exemption or waiver.</p>	<p>Container material* = <b>Waived from Article 3 = Not SSO, MO or gray container stream</b></p>	<p>* Material coming from a jurisdiction that is subject to a rural waiver or from that part of a jurisdiction subject to a low population waiver is not subject to measurements.  Note: This only applies to waste from jurisdictions that have a department-issued rural exemption or from that part of a jurisdiction subject to a department-issued low population waiver. If this material is mixed with waste from other jurisdictions, or from non-waived parts of a jurisdiction, then it is subject to measurements in the manner noted above.</p>
<p><b>18984.12(d) Department-Issued Elevation Waivers:</b> Elevation waivers allow for food and food-soiled paper to be disposed and placed in the gray container in the area subject to the waiver. In some instances, only part of the jurisdiction is subject to the waiver. Note: There are other waivers in 18984.13 where organic waste is also allowed to be disposed.</p>	<p>For a 3-container collection service = <b>Gray Container Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(6.5)]   For a 2-container or unsegregated 1-container collection service = <b>Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream</b> [17402(a)(11.5)]</p>	<p><b>For Gray Container Collection Stream =</b>  <b>17409.5.7:</b> Gray Container Waste Evaluations (<i>if receiving more than 500 tons annually from a single jurisdiction</i>)   <b>For Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream =</b>  <b>17409.5.2:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Recovery)  <b>17409.5.3:</b> Mixed Waste Organic (Disposal)  <b>17409.5.8:</b> Incompatible Material Limit (Recovery)</p>

## **Definitions:**

**Section 17402(a)(6.5):** “Gray Container Waste” or “Gray Container Collection Stream” means solid waste that is collected in a gray container that is part of a three-container organic waste collection service that prohibits the placement of organic waste in the gray container as specified in Section 18984.1(a) and (b).

**Section 17402(a)(11.5):** “Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream” means organic waste collected in a container that is required by Section 18984.1, 18984.2, or 18984.3 to be transported to a high diversion organic waste processing facility.

**Section 17402(a)(23.5):** “Remnant Organic Material” means the organic waste that is collected in a gray container that is part of the gray container collection stream.

**Section 18982(a)(28):** “Gray container” means a container where either:

- (A) The lid of the container is gray or black in color.
- (B) The body of the container is entirely gray or black in color and the lid is gray or black in color. Hardware such as hinges and wheels on a gray container may be any color.

**Section 18982(a)(33):** “High diversion organic waste processing facility” means a facility that is in compliance with the reporting requirements of Section 18815.5(d) and meets or exceeds an annual average mixed waste organic content recovery rate of 50 percent between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2024, and 75 percent after January 1, 2025, as calculated pursuant to Section 18815.5(e) for organic waste received from the “Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream” as defined in Section 17402 (a)(11.5).

**Section 18982(a)(46):** “Organic waste” means solid wastes containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products including, but not limited to, food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.

## **Solid Waste Facility Measurement Requirements:**

**Section 17409.5.2:** **Measuring Organic Waste Recovered from Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream** – this measurement focuses on measuring organic waste sent off-site for recovery, further processing, or end-use to determine the total amount of organic waste recovered.

**Section 17409.5.3:** **Measuring Organic Waste in Material Removed from Mixed Waste Organic Collection Stream for Disposal** – this measurement focuses on measuring organic waste present in materials sent for landfill disposal to determine the amount of organic waste disposed.

**Section 17409.5.7:** **Gray Container Waste Evaluations** – this measurement focuses on measuring organic waste present in the Gray Container Collection Stream to determine the amount of remnant organic material present.

**Section 17409.5.8: Incompatible Material Limit in Recovered Organic Waste** – this measurement focuses on measuring the amount of incompatibles in recovered organic waste and determines if a transfer/processing activity meets its incompatible materials limit (no more than 20% incompatibles by weight in material sent for recovery, further processing or end-use and no more than 10% on or after January 1, 2025).

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