Frequently Asked Questions

(Additional Questions and Answers Coming soon)

CalRecycle will publish an FAQ based on several questions that have been received during past webinars. The FAQ is still in development. CalRecycle is sharing this question and answer ahead of the November 3, 2026, 'Chat with CalRecycle on SB 54' webinar.

1. **In the initial stages of implementation of the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) Plan — and before the PRO has identified Responsible End Markets — how can local jurisdictions and recycling service providers comply with requirements to include covered materials in their programs?**

The approved PRO, Circular Action Alliance (CAA), is responsible for identifying and arranging for responsible end markets and covering costs associated with the transfer of materials to a responsible end market.

Under the law (14 CCR section 18980.11), local jurisdictions and recycling service providers are not required to establish or validate the availability of a responsible end market for covered materials for inclusion in their collection programs. Local jurisdictions and recycling service providers remain compliant when they collect and transfer materials into the available supply chain, even if final disposition involves disposal where no responsible end market is available. Collection may be through any type of collection program for recycling, including residential collection, commercial collection, and drop-off events, operated by local jurisdictions or recycling service providers. Jurisdictions cannot be deemed out of compliance solely because collected materials transferred to an end-market or intermediate supply chain entity (e.g., materials recovery facility) ultimately are processed and destined for disposal.

CalRecycle recognizes that initiating the exemption process at this early stage of program implementation may create administrative complexity for local entities. CalRecycle intends to prioritize compliance and technical assistance in this early implementation period for LJs and RSPs, while reserving enforcement actions to extraordinary circumstances where there is no intent to comply. In particular, CalRecycle will consider uncertainties for local jurisdictions and recycling service providers as CAA prepares to implement its PRO plan and begins to identify and develop responsible end markets and cover costs incurred by local jurisdictions and recycling service providers for those activities. CalRecycle anticipates that PRO, local jurisdiction, and recycling service provider coordination will help clarify whether exemptions are necessary and for which materials. Deferring exemption submissions in the early phase of implementation of the PRO Plan while coordination is occurring will not result in noncompliance or enforcement actions on local jurisdictions or recycling service providers by CalRecycle at this time.