



CIRC: Controls Intended to Remove Contamination

PROCUREMENT

Addressing contamination from non-compostable packaging begins at the source. If the right controls and processes are in place, it is possible to do much of the mitigation work before customers ever walk through the door.

The PROCUREMENT section of the scorecard is divided up into three sections:

1. Order Guide
2. Distributor Support
3. Receiving Process



Order Guide

The first step in the process is to generate a detailed order guide of certified compostable products that is approved by the composter. Many composters have their own specific requirements for what they will accept, which is why it is critical that the list of items is vetted by them. Those requirements may include specific certifications and approvals like from BPI and CMA, sufficient on-item labeling, and the restricted use of specific material categories. Once the order guide is complete, all critical stakeholders in the operation – from warehouse managers all the way to the hauler that will likely be visually inspecting the loads on pick-up – should have access to it.

Distributor Support

A good ordering guide is only useful if the items on it are readily available, which is where distribution comes in. Having a good working relationship with the foodservice distributor responsible for reliably delivering the products on the order guide is critical. Any agreements and contingency plans that can be put in place with these distributors to incentivize compliance and minimize the dreaded “forced substitution” – when a product on the ordering guide is replaced with an item that has not been approved by the composter – are highly encouraged. Volume forecasts to help distributors plan their inventory, back-up items that have been approved by the composter, secondary distribution options, and regular meetings with stakeholders to review performance area all recommended.

Receiving Process

While it may prove difficult for some operations, having a process for reviewing products as they are delivered will help drive accountability and provide an early warning to the operation that contingency plans may be required.

