

New BC recycling rule affects treatment equipment

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TORONTO — The Canadian Water Quality Association (CWQA) announced in a February 23 press release that the province of British Columbia's mandated recycling and stewardship program will be expanded to include all plumbing and drinking water treatment products that are powered by electricity or battery.

The legislation supports the province's goals to divert all waste from landfills and incinerators by 2020.

The program will include all electrical products by July of 2010 and all appliances by July of 2012.

According to the CWQA, the responsibility to comply falls to the "producer" in the province, where producer is defined as the first seller of the product in the province, but which in practice may be the product manufacturer, brand owner, seller or distributor. The producer also could be an importer, broker or retailer that sells the product directly to a consumer (including Internet sales).

"The regulation was designed to be results-based and very flexible for producers to either submit a plan of their own or comply with the province's prescribed program," the CWQA said.

Similar regulations are being developed in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and the CWQA said it anticipates that Quebec and Saskatchewan will also announce similar programs.

The CWQA said it "is working with all the provinces to possibly integrate the requirements into a national program for the membership as a service to our members to apply to any province."