

Producer Deadline for Blue Box Ontario Regulatory Responsibilities Fast Approaching

If you are considered a producer according to the Blue Box Regulation for Ontario (which can include brand owners resident in Canada and retailers), deadlines are fast approaching and failure to comply can lead to regulatory financial penalties.

In the past CPMA has sent out material about changes to Ontario's Blue Box Regulations which is in a period of compliance to full producer responsibility for products and packaging. Please read the following carefully to determine if you have obligations:

- The Blue Box Regulation *makes producers of packaging and paper products fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed; sets mandatory and enforceable requirements for Blue Box collection systems; and gives producers choices for resource recovery services in a competitive market.* [Learn more about the regulation.](#)
- Producers are defined as *those who supply Blue box material (packaging, paper producers or packaging-like products) composed of paper, glass, metal or plastic, or a combination of these materials to consumers in Ontario.* There are many "classifications" of producer and ultimately if the packaging doesn't fall into the [various categories](#), the retailer who supplied the product to consumers in Ontario is considered the producer.
- Producers will be 100% responsible and there are mandatory and enforceable regulations to ensure this.
- Producers will work with a PRO (Producer Responsibility Organization) which is *a business established to contract with producers to help them meet their regulatory obligations under the Blue Box Regulation* (e.g. collection and management for end-of-life packaging and products). If producers choose not to contract a PRO for these and other services, the producer must establish and operate their own collection, management and promotion/education.
- The Ontario Blue Box program is in a period of transition (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025) and **by May 31st producers must have registered with RPRA (Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority), paid their annual program fee, and completed a supply report.**
- There are exemptions based on low volume of product and revenue level in a calendar year.
- Producers have mandatory and enforceable requirements and must:
 - Register with RPRA (the Ontario-designated Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority)
 - Report data on how much material they supply
 - Meet their resource recovery obligations
- RPRA has the authority to issue monetary penalties to obligated parties/producers who are not in compliance with the regulations.