

# CANADIAN SPHAGNUM PEAT MOSS ASSOCIATION CODE OF PRACTICE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The peat producers of Canada have adopted a Code of Practice that outlines policies and procedures that each company adheres to in order to conduct their business in the Best Practices in the eyes of their employees, customers, suppliers, and the public at large.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The peat producers agree to:

- 2.1 Adopt those practises that minimise disturbance of the peatlands and the areas surrounding them.
- 2.2 Respect the concerns of nearby residents by implementing policies and procedures that reduce the impact harvesting and production facilities have on the area surrounding a peat operation.
- 2.3 Be involved in the activities and concerns of the surrounding community.
- 2.4 Establish a training program for employees that includes dust management, waste management, fire control management, and sensitivity towards the environmental impact of operating a peat company.
- 2.5 Identify specific people to be responsible for implementing the objectives outlined in 2.4.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

The peat producers have agreed to:

- 3.1 Train employees for assigned responsibilities in:
  - Harvesting and dust emission prevention and best practices with vacuum harvesters:
    - turn off PTO to harvesters under specified conditions
    - cease vacuuming before harvester over-fills
  - Loading and dumping of peat
  - Harrowing – risk of blocking ditches
  - Waste management (plastic, petroleum, pallets)
  - Fire safety and fire control
  - Health & safety procedures (occupational health + safety)
- 3.2 Establish best practices for water drainage from bogs by strictly adhering to the guidelines and procedures set by the governing bodies responsible for the area within which the company operates. Where a sedimentation pond is required one must:

- Have the correct size settling ponds
  - Develop procedures for management of sedimentation ponds (where government guidelines exist, adhere to those; where guidelines do not exist, adhere to those as defined in Guidelines for peat mining operations in New Brunswick by J.J. Thibault, NRE) that includes:
    - cleaning drainage ditches
    - cleaning settling ponds on a regular basis
    - cleaning settling ponds prior to cleaning ditches
  - Monitor the effluent on a regular basis
- 3.3 Take measures to minimise dust emission by:
- Developing procedures for windy conditions
  - Using dust-collectors in the factory (optional for those who do not effect neighbours with dust)
  - Having mechanical dust control on harvesters (optional for those who do not impact neighbours with dust)
  - Selecting the best location for peat storage piles
  - Covering piles when appropriate (timing, location)
  - Leaving trees as a buffer around a bog
- 3.4 Take appropriate measures for fire safety by:
- Being aware of wind influence
  - Having fire fighting equipment
  - Being careful with hazardous equipment
  - Developing a disaster plan for fire fighting
  - Instituting a “share-fire-equipment” plan with other peat producers
- 3.5 Maintain a pro-active safety committee with procedures that include:
- An evacuation plan for injured workmen
  - Sharing information with other peat producers on problems encountered and solutions devised
- 3.6 Abide by the *CSPMA Preservation and Reclamation Policy*.
- 3.7 Promote the conservation of regionally unique bogs.
- 3.8 Support research related to the environment at company facilities.
- 3.9 When opening new fields, offer the top spits material to other producers for restoration work if not required on own site.

#### **4. INACTMENT**

- 4.1 Complaints will be heard by the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association.