Mattress Recycling Laws in the States

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Mattress Recycling Council

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The Mattress Industry

- About 95% of US mattress manufacturers are small businesses
- 90% of mattresses are assembled domestically
- Roughly 40 million units are sold annually in the U.S.
- Approximately 20 million units are disposed of annually
Mattress Recycling

- 30+ mattress recyclers in U.S.
- Many are non-profit organizations or partnerships
- Most use manual labor to dismantle the mattress
- Processing fees range from $5 to $50/unit
STEEL
Mattress springs are valuable steel that is melted and remade into any number of products.

WOOD
Wood can be used to make mulch.

FOAM
Mattress foam is processed into carpet underlay.

FIBER
Fiber is reprocessed and used to create filters for industrial equipment.
Mattress Recycling Laws

- In 2013, the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) worked with lawmakers, state and city officials and environmental groups to pass mattress recycling legislation in California, Connecticut & Rhode Island.

- ISPA supported these laws because they included a visible, point-of-sale fee to fund a mattress recycling program.
Mattress Recycling Laws

- Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) formed by ISPA in 2013
- 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization
- Tasked with designing, implementing and administering mattress recycling programs in states with such laws
- Each state has its own program
Mattress Recycling Laws

• Mattress Stewardship Organization
• Producers and/or retailers must join or register
• Must develop and administer a statewide program to recycle mattresses
• Establish a fee to fund the program
• Issue annual reports to regulators
Program Requirements

- Provide for management of discarded mattresses
- Funded by the organization using fee revenues
- Provide collection or receipt of mattresses from municipal waste sites, retailers, bulk generators
  – Participation is voluntary!
- Administer an education program
How do the programs work?

• Mattress recycling fee is established by MRC and approved by state regulators
• Retailers charge the fee on each mattress unit sold in the state
• The fee is remitted to MRC
• MRC contracts with recyclers, transporters and collectors to facilitate mattress recycling
• MRC uses the fee revenues to pay service providers
Collection

• Programs will use existing collection methods when feasible
• Consumers will continue to use traditional disposal options:
  o Retailer take back with new purchase
  o Transfer station drop-off
  o Municipal curbside collection
• Drop off at designated consolidation points
• Mattresses transported from consolidation sites to recyclers at MRC’s expense
• Program will launch May 1, 2015
• Recycling fee $9.00 per unit
• 1/3 municipal sites already expressed interest in participating
• Retailers, educational institutions, hotels, military
• MRC staff contact: Justine Fallon, jfallon@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
• MRC program plan due on July 1, 2015
• RFP for transportation and recycling closed
• Fee to be determined
• Expected launch early 2016
• MRC staff contact: Justine Fallon,

jfallon@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
• MRC certified as stewardship organization
• MRC program plan due on July 1, 2015
• RFP for transportation and recycling closes April 22nd
• Fee to be determined
• Expected launch early 2016
• MRC staff contacts: No. CA - Rodney Clara, rclara@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
  So. CA - Mark Patti, mpatti@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
Program Administration

- Registration portal on MRC website
  → www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org
- Fee reporting and remittance
- Anti-fraud controls for transporters and recyclers
Welcome to the MRC Online Registration and Reporting System

California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have enacted laws requiring the mattress industry to establish a mattress recycling program in each of these states. You may be required to register with MRC, depending on where you conduct business. Companies selling mattresses and box springs to consumers in these states must collect recycling fees on those and remit them to MRC monthly.

Each state has different registration requirements:

• **Connecticut** – Each company that produces, imports, or distributes mattresses for sale in the state must join MRC by July 1, 2014. To join, you must register online with MRC through this system.

• **Rhode Island** – Each company that produces, imports, or distributes mattresses for sale in the state must join MRC by July 1, 2015. To join, you must register online with MRC through this system.

• **California** – Each company that produces, imports, distributes, or renovates mattresses for sale in the state shall register online with MRC through this system.

After January 1, 2016, a producer, renovator or retailer may not sell, distribute, or offer for sale a mattress in California unless it has registered with MRC and is in compliance with the law.

**UNDER THESE LAWS, STATES MAY PROHIBIT YOUR MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS FROM BEING SOLD TO CONSUMERS IN THESE STATES IF YOU FAIL TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.**

There is no cost to register with MRC.
Public Education & Outreach

- Outreach to stakeholders and industry
- Developing training and compliance videos
- Developing a consumer facing brand
- Participant locator
- Point of sale materials
- Print, online and other ads and materials
- PSAs
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