Registering, Collecting Fee and Reporting to MRC and CalRecycle

The Law & Program
California’s Used Mattress Recovery & Recycling Act (SB 254) required the mattress industry to create and manage a statewide mattress recycling program. The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is the nonprofit organization created by the mattress industry and certified by CalRecycle to administer this program. This program, known as Bye Bye Mattress to consumers, is funded through a $10.50 recycling fee collected on all purchases of new, used and renovated mattresses and box springs.

Program Updates — Take-Back Required for ALL Retailers and Futons Now Included in Mattress Definition
Starting Jan. 1, 2021 any retailer selling a mattress to a California consumer must offer to arrange to pick up a used mattress at no cost to the consumer regardless of sales format or delivery method. California AB 187 expands the existing take back requirement to include deliveries made by common carrier that were previously exempt. Additionally, on January 1, 2020, the definition of a mattress expanded to include futons. This means futon mattresses are included products, but not futon frames or bases. Retailers, manufacturers, distributors, importers and renovators of futon mattresses are affected by this change.

Obligations
If you renovate products that fit the law’s definition of mattress or box spring, you must:

- Register your company with MRC and provide the brand names or URNs of these items.
- Report to CalRecycle by May 1 of each year.

If you sell or offer for sale products that fit the law’s definition of mattress or box spring, you must:

- Register your company with MRC.
- Collect the recycling fee on each sale and remit the fee to MRC monthly.
- Offer no-charge take-back of your customer’s used mattress and/or box spring when you deliver the sold mattress or box spring (unless you use a common carrier for delivery).
- Monitor CalRecycle’s site for registered manufacturers and brands. You must not sell mattresses or box springs offered by unregistered manufacturers.

Fee Collection
A $10.50 fee applies to each mattress, futon mattress and box spring sold directly to California consumers or contract purchasers (hotels, hospitals, universities, etc.). The fee is:

- A flat rate regardless of mattress size or type.
- Charged per unit. Each mattress and each box spring is considered a separate unit.
- Listed on the invoice or sales receipt as “Recycle Fee” followed by the amount.

Registration & Fee Remittance
Renovators must register and remit the collected recycling fees in order to continue operating in the state. This includes disclosing the brands or URNs of the products that are renovated, sold or offered for sale in the state.

Guidelines and step-by-step videos that explain each of these processes are available in the resources area.

RESOURCES
Definitions
https://www.mrcreporting.org/Pages/Definitions.aspx

Included and Excluded Products
https://www.mrcreporting.org/Pages/InclExclProducts.aspx

FAQs
https://www.mrcreporting.org/Pages/FAQ.aspx

California’s Program
https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/programs/california/

CalRecycle
https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/mattresses

CalRecycle Annual Reporting
https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Mattresses/AnnualReport/