

The Road to a Standard for Flushability March 2019 Update

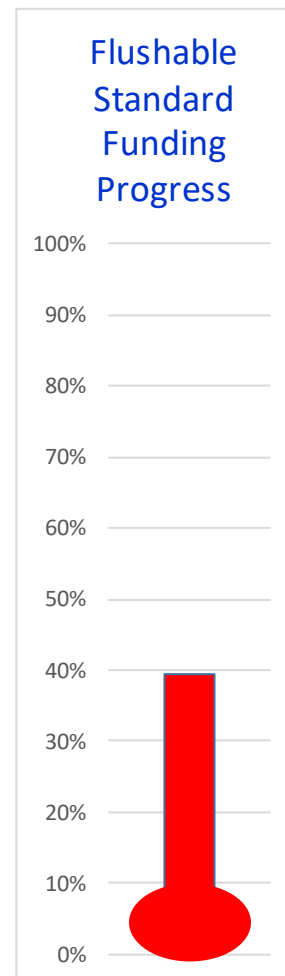
On July 24, 2017, the International Water Services Flushability Group (IWSFG) released their draft flushability standards for public comment. On June 5, 2018 the final documents were released. Much work led up to this point and there is much more work ahead of us.

Together, MESUG (Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group) and CWWA (Canadian Water and Wastewater Association) made an appeal to Canadian municipalities to contribute to a fund to support our efforts. Thus far we have raised **\$59,000** to assist with the development of a Standard for Flushability and any corresponding support work.

CWWA, MESUG and IWSFG want to thank those who have contributed to this endeavour that affects all of us. Please consider having your community contribute. This is a small investment to address \$millions/billions in damages nationally.

Contributing Organizations

- Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission
- Town of Beaumont, Alberta
- City of Brantford, Ontario
- City of Calgary, Alberta
- City of Campbell River, British Columbia
- Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia
- Regional District of Central Okanagan, British Columbia
- City of Chilliwack, British Columbia
- Town of Cobourg, Ontario
- Town of Comox, British Columbia
- Regional Municipality of Durham, Ontario
- City of Fredericton, New Brunswick
- Halifax Water, Nova Scotia
- City of Hamilton, Ontario
- City of Kelowna, British Columbia
- City of London, Ontario
- Metro Vancouver, British Columbia
- City of Nanaimo, British Columbia
- Regional District of Nanaimo, British Columbia
- Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario
- City of Penticton, British Columbia
- City of Powell River, British Columbia
- City of St. Albert, Alberta
- City of Toronto, Ontario
- City of Windsor, Ontario
- York Region, Ontario



Immediate (Short Term) Expenses:

- 1.) Research and final development of ‘flushable’ test methods;
- 2.) Retention of formally qualified 3rd party laboratories to confirm reliability of the test methods and confirmation of the wastewater approved pass/fail criteria; and
- 3.) Retention of qualified Fibre Analysis testing laboratories to analyze the materials used in ‘flushable’ products that do not biodegrade and contribute to microfiber issues in the aquatic environment.

Long Term Expenses:

- 1.) The expense to move the adoption of the standard into enforceable regulation.

The Path behind us and the Path ahead of us: A Timeline

March 2012	MESUG started investigating the legislation behind the labelling of Flushable products and discovered that there was none
August 2012	Letters sent to manufacturers of flushable products regarding flushable products
2012 – 2013	CSA Standard pursued but not enough pledges were received to make it possible
February 2013	CSA and MESUG met with INDA and manufacturer representatives to discuss possibility of collaborating on a CSA standard for flushable products. Manufacturing representatives were not amenable to a standard
November 2013	Window on Ottawa – initial discussions regarding the possibility of an ISO Standard
July 2014	Work on the ISO Technical Specification for Flushable products begins
Mar - Aug 2016	Wastewater representatives (CWWA, NACWA, WEF ...) and INDA collaborate on a new “Code of Practice” for flushable product manufacturers.
December 2016	ISO work on the ISO TS halted due to a challenge from TC6 WG27
February 2017	Formation of IWSFG – work begins on PAS (Publicly Available Standard) documents
June 2017	CWWA call for funding and logo support for a standard on Flushability
July 2017	PAS documents released for public comment
September 2017	Notice placed in FCM Voice newsletter regarding work towards a standard for Flushability
September 2017	Public comment period on PAS documents ends
September 2017	IWSFG members meet in Madrid, Spain to review public comments
October 2017	Second draft of PAS documents being prepared taking into consideration public comments from first draft
October 2017	Development of a logo for a truly flushable product. Graphic designer contacted. Input requested by Barry Orr, MESUG spokesperson
October 2017	Consideration of sites and laboratories to validate the test methods (Ryerson University contacted and possibility of a lab in Metro Vancouver)
October 2017	Further review of PAS documents test methods by IWSFG experts in Canada, United States, Spain, New Zealand, Japan and Australia

Next Steps

January 2018	Release of second draft of PAS documents for public comment
2018	Continue Fund Raising efforts across Canada
March 2018	IWSFG Meeting in London, England to finalize PAS documents
May 2018	ISO Technical Report completed – put out for ballot of approval/rejection by the participating countries of ISO Technical Committee 224
June 2018	Release of IWSFG Flushability Specification
July 2018	ISO Technical Report approved to be published by participating countries of ISO Technical Committee 224
Aug. – Dec. 2018	Ryerson University Flushables Testing – Verification of IWSFG Test Methods
April 4, 2019	Ryerson University Study Released
May 1, 2019	Friends of the Earth, via Ecojustice petition Competition Bureau to investigate 23 failed products from Ryerson University Study – requesting 230 million in fines
2019	Obtain quotes from standardization organizations to develop the standard
2019	Contact Members of Parliament and Politicians to address issue of flushable products and assist with development of the future standard into legislation