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Maple syrup expertise: our strength, our passion!



REAFIE and maple syrup production: What's Changing for Wash Water

New regulations have been introduced to modify the environmental framework applicable to certain maple syrup production activities, particularly concerning the wash water used for collecting and processing sap. Here is a summary of the key points to remember:

1 Until January 1st, 2028

Temporary suspension of certain REAFIE obligations

The MELCCFP has published an administrative position that temporarily suspends the application of articles 152, 153 and 154 of the REAFIE (as well as certain related provisions) for sap collection or processing facilities, equipment or devices.

In concrete terms, until January 1st, 2028, the establishment or operation of these facilities is not subject to ministerial authorization, a declaration of conformity or the conditions of exemption provided for in these articles.

The installation of a system for treating the wash water of sap collection or treatment equipment also does not require authorization during this period.

2 From January 1st, 2028

The framework provided for in Article 66 of the RPAE will then be applicable

Maple groves with more than 20,000 taps must ensure that:

The pH of the wastewater generated by washing is between 6 and 9.5 at the discharge point.

The wastewater outlet is designed to prevent soil erosion.

This new framework replaces the authorization or declaration of conformity formalities that were provided for in the REAFIE for this activity.

3 What remains subject

The temporary suspension does not affect all the activities of a maple syrup operation.

Other activities related to maple syrup production remain subject to environmental requirements, including:

Construction and excavation in wet environments, including:

- Burial of pipes, electrical wires or other conduits (according to applicable regulations)
- Building construction
- Construction of roads and drainage ditches
- culvert construction

Certain forest management activities

Spreading of lime or lime-absorbing materials

4 Further details to follow

The Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks (MELCCFP) is currently preparing a guide that will clarify the interpretation of the various provisions of the RPAE applicable to the maple syrup sector.

Pending its publication, questions regarding the interpretation of the RPAE should be addressed to the MELCCFP:
info.rpae@environnement.gouv.qc.ca

To learn more:
Video capsules and information sheets on wash water (in French only):
www.centreacer.qc.ca/pub-Eauxdelavage

Sources: Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) · PPAQ, September 2026 newsletter