A consistent approach to measuring and reporting food loss and waste

Introducing the National Standard of Canada, CSA K100:26, Food loss and waste – Terminology and measurement

Over 46%
of food is wasted every year in Canada[1]

$58 billion
in lost economic value
due to Canada's annual avoidable food loss and waste[1]

Approximately 10 million
people in the 10 provinces
lived in food-insecure households in 2024 [2]

[1] The avoidable crisis of food waste update: Technical report, Second Harvest and Value Chain Management International, 2024
[2] New data on household food insecurity in 2024, Proof, 2025

The lack of consistent approaches to defining, measuring, and reporting food loss and waste makes it challenging to set and meet reduction targets. Standards can provide guidance and best practices to address this challenge, helping retain edible food within the food system, reduce food waste across the food value chain, and strengthen food security in Canada.

CSA K100:26

Establishes a common framework for defining, measuring, and reporting food loss and waste (FLW) in Canada, supporting:

Consistency
in calculating the amount of FLW generated, diverted, and managed

Accuracy & Comparability
of FLW data

Understanding
the impact of FLW reduction efforts

What does the standard cover?



- **Terms and definitions** related to food loss and waste
- Assistance in developing a food loss and waste **measurement plan**
- **Approaches to measuring** food loss and waste in primary production, processing, manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, retail, and food services
- Identification and selection of the best practically available **food loss and waste destinations**
- Calculation of the **economic value** of food loss and waste
- Recommendations on evaluation of **environmental impacts associated with FLW**
- **Reporting** food loss and waste and making food loss and waste claims

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Who is the standard for?

Primary food producers, redistributors, retail, and food services

Organization engaged in the **management or disposal of food** loss and waste

Federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal **governments**

Other interested parties, including for-profit and non-profit organizations

Why use CSA Group standards

- **National consensus:** Standards are developed through a consensus-based process by volunteer experts representing views of diverse interested and affected parties.
- **Credibility:** Consistent guidance supports the implementation of effective programs, incentives, and decision-making.
- **Knowledge transfer:** Science-based best practices and guidance help provide access to actionable knowledge.
- **Innovation:** Implement of recognized standards enables innovation and helps open new market opportunities.

Get the standard CSA K100:26

www.csagroup.org/K100

Learn more about CSA Group standards and research supporting sustainable and circular practices in the agriculture and agri-food sector:

agrifood@csagroup.org

csagroup.org/agrifood

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