

# The Missouri Fertilizer Law

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The Missouri fertilizer law provides protection against fraud in the sale of commercial fertilizers, through simple but effective provisions. Briefly stated, a manufacturer desiring to place a fertilizer on the market must carry out the following procedure in the order indicated.

1. Registration of the brand of fertilizer at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Mo.
2. This registration shall state:
  - (a) Name and address of manufacturer;
  - (b) The brand name of the fertilizer;
  - (c) The guaranteed chemical composition of the fertilizer expressed in terms of plant food.
3. The affixing of labels giving same statements as in registration.
4. Affixing to each package, parcel or bag of fertilizer a tag from the Experiment Station, stating the fact of registration in the calendar year in which sale is made.

Selling a fertilizer when any or all of these provisions have not been met, is an act in violation of the law.

The law further provides that the Agricultural Experiment Station shall inspect stocks of fertilizer in warehouses, freight cars, stores, farms, or wherever found, and draw samples to be analyzed in the laboratories of the Experiment Station.

The law provides that the Experiment Station shall publish the results of these analyses as compared with the guarantees of the fertilizers and other findings of the inspection and distribute these among manufacturers, jobbers, dealers, farmers, and others interested. This report is given wide publicity and serves as a guide in manufacture, sale and use of fertilizer and an index of the quality, reliability, and distribution.

The Experiment Station has made a careful study of the fertilizer needs of Missouri soils in all parts of the state, and has obtained the

cooperation of the manufacturers supplying Missouri markets, in offering for sale fertilizers which have been shown by actual experiment to give profitable yields from their use. Thus the farmer in Missouri may rest assured that in buying fertilizer from established and reputable firms he is getting material that will be profitable for him to use as well as profitable to the manufacturer who sells it.

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### TEXT OF THE LAW

(As copied from Article 12, Chapter 109, Revised Statutes of Missouri 1919, Sections 12109 to 12117 inclusive)

**Section 12109—Commercial fertilizer to be marked and branded.—**

Any commercial fertilizer or material to be used as a fertilizer, the selling price of which exceeds five dollars per ton, shall have stamped or affixed to each package of such fertilizer in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof, by the manufacturer, importer, corporation, company or person who sells or causes the same to be sold, offered or exposed for sale, a plainly printed statement which shall certify as follows:

(1) The name, brand or trade mark under which the fertilizer is sold.

(2) The name and address of the manufacturer of the fertilizer.

(3) The guaranteed chemical composition of the fertilizer expressed in the following terms: (a) Per centum of nitrogen: (b) per centum of available phosphoric acid, and in the case of an undissolved animal bone, the per centum of insoluble phosphoric acid: (c) per centum of potash soluble in distilled water. In case the composition is expressed in equivalent to ammonia, etc., in addition to the above it shall be clearly and unequivocally shown that such terms are used merely as equivalents and not used to represent additional plant food.

**Section 12110—Statement to be filed with Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.—**Before any commercial fertilizer or material to be used as a fertilizer, the selling price of which exceeds five dollars per ton, is sold, offered or exposed for sale in this state, the manufacturer, importer, corporation, company or person who sells or causes the same to be sold, offered or exposed for sale, shall file annually for registry with the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station at Columbia, a statement which shall certify as follows: (1) The name, brand, or trade mark under which the fertilizer is sold: (2) the name and address of the manufacturer of the fertilizer: (3) The guaranteed chemical composition of

the fertilizer, expressed in the following terms: (a) per centum of nitrogen; (b) per centum of available phosphoric acid, and in the case of an undissolved bone, the per centum of insoluble phosphoric acid; (c) per centum of potash soluble in distilled water.

**Section 12111.—Duties of director of experiment station.**—It shall be the duty of the director of said experiment station to register or cause to be registered the statements of every brand of fertilizer offered for registry as aforesaid, and to furnish to every manufacturer, importer or person complying with the provisions of this article, a certificate setting forth the fact of registry, and shall furnish to the manufacturer, importer or person complying with the provisions of this article, the labels or tags required in section 12112 showing that the brand of fertilizer has been duly registered at the experiment station for that year.

**Section 12112.—Statement to be attached to each package of fertilizer sold.—Penalties.**—Every person, corporation or company who shall sell, offer or expose for sale in this state any commercial fertilizer, the selling price of which exceeds five dollars per ton, shall stamp or affix to each package of such fertilizer, in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof, a plainly printed statement which shall recite and certify in effect and form the matters and things required to be set forth in the registered statement described in section 12110. If any such fertilizer is sold, offered, or exposed for sale in bulk, such printed statement shall accompany every lot and parcel sold, offered or exposed for sale. Every person, corporation or company selling or exposing for sale such fertilizer shall, in addition to said printed statement, attach to every package or quantity of such fertilizer sold or exposed for sale in a conspicuous place on the outside of said package a label or tag furnished by said experiment station showing that such brand of commercial fertilizer has been registered at said experiment station for that year.

**Section 12113.—Fees to be paid experiment station for tags.**—Every manufacturer, importer or person shall pay to said experiment station for the labels or tags required by them under section 12112 of this article, the sum of one and one-half cents each for tags to be attached to packages weighing one hundred pounds or less: and three cents each for tags or labels to be attached to bags or packages weighing more than one hundred pounds. The moneys so paid shall be used for defraying the expenses of said experiment station in registering and keeping a registry of the statements required under Section 12110 of this article, for collecting samples in the open market, for making or causing to be made the analysis of samples, for supplying the labels or tags, for practical and scientific experiments in the value and proper use of commercial fer-

tilizers, and for publishing the results of same and for such other work, investigations and publications as may be of practical use to the farmers of the state.

**Section 12114.—Experiment station required to collect samples of fertilizers.**—It shall be the duty of the experiment station to collect or cause to be collected from the open market each year one or more samples of each and every brand of fertilizer sold in this state during that year, and make or cause to be made a chemical analysis of the same: to publish each year a full and detailed report giving the names and addresses of all the manufacturers of fertilizers selling or offering for sale commercial fertilizers in this state, a list of the brands thereof; the guaranteed composition of the same and the composition as found by the chemical analysis herein required; also an itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures under this article.

**Section 12115.—*Id.*—Powers and duties of director of experiment station.**—The director of the experiment station is hereby authorized, in person or by deputy, to take samples of not more than one pound each for analysis, from any lot or package of any commercial fertilizer which may be in the possession of any manufacturer or dealer in this state upon tender of the value of the same; and to obtain said samples said director and his deputies are hereby authorized to enter upon the premises of said manufacturer or dealer or his agents or where said fertilizer is stored. And said director is hereby authorized to prescribe and enforce such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to carry fully into effect the true intent and meaning of this article.

**Section 12116. Certain matter not to be sold as fertilizers, unless plainly branded.**—No person shall sell, offer or expose for sale in this state any untreated, partially decomposed leather, horn, hair, hoof or other inert nitrogenous matter as a fertilizer or as an ingredient of any fertilizer, unless a plainly printed and explicit statement of such fact shall be conspicuously affixed to every package of such fertilizer, and such statement shall accompany every parcel, package or lot of the same.

**Section 12117. Penalty for violations of this article.**—Every person violating or evading any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.