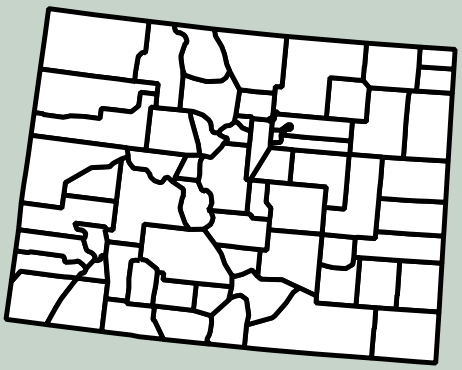
Colorado

EPR Snapshot for Envelope & Mail Producers



Summary

PRO: Circular Action Alliance (CAA)

Status: Live

Litigation: ILMA v. CDPHE — ongoing, filed March 12, 2026, no injunction sought, program fully in effect. On August 18, 2026, shifted strategy by filing a motion for a preliminary injunction. No ruling as of October 2026. NAW v. Ryan- Filed July 30, 2026, by the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, alleging constitutional violations. A motion for preliminary injunction was fully briefed following NAW's reply on September 28, 2026.

Next deadline: January 1, 2027 - 2027 Annual Program Dues Effective

Rulemaking: Colorado working on amendments to EPR regulations

Colorado is the highest-priority state for EMA members. The program is live. Producers were required to register and participate by July 1, 2025. Dues payments began January 2026. If you sell or distribute covered materials in Colorado and have not yet registered with CAA, you may face compliance risk and should act immediately. Unregistered producers face steep statutory penalties of up to $5,000 for the first day of violation and $1,500 per day thereafter.

Litigation Note: On March 12, 2026, the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association (ILMA) sued the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), challenging Colorado's implementation of the Producer Responsibility Program. Colorado's program remains fully in effect while the case proceeds. Producers should continue to comply with all current obligations. No injunctions have been granted in active lawsuits, the compliance calendar stands.

What Is Covered

Colorado covers packaging materials and paper products sold or distributed in the state. For envelope companies, the key question is whether a specific product is covered packaging, covered paper, or exempt. There is no explicit blanket exemption for envelopes used as general communication pieces.

Important Exemptions

- Printed paper used to distribute financial statements, billing statements, medical documents, or other vital documents where paper delivery is required by consumer-protection or other state/federal law — this is the clearest statutory exemption for communications mail
- Very small producers (below volume thresholds)
- Nonprofits, state/local government, certain agricultural producers, certain single-location retail food establishments, builders/construction contractors

Note: There is no explicit blanket exemption for all envelopes used as communication pieces. A product-by-product analysis is recommended.

Key Dates

- July 1, 2025 - Registration and participation required to continue selling covered materials in Colorado
- January 2026 - Annual producer responsibility dues began
- June 9, 2026 - Approved program implementation phase begins in 2026
- September 16, 2026 - The CAA announced the program's expansion into practice
- January 1, 2027 - 2027 program dues go into effect. Invoices will be split into two 50% installments (due January and July)

Updated - 2027 - Fee Structure

Annual Supply Into Colorado	Optional Flat Dues
1 to 2.5 tons	$900
2.5 to 5 tons	$1,800
5 to 7.5 tons	$2,900
7.5 to 10 tons	$4,100

Key Resources

- Colorado Program Page (CDPHE)
- CAA Colorado Page
- CAA Producer Resource Center
- CAA Registration

Practical briefing only; not legal advice. Consult qualified counsel to determine how EPR obligations apply to your specific products and operations. Last updated October 2026.