



What To Expect When You're Inspected

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Overview

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) inspections are designed to ensure the proper management of hazardous waste.
- The approach used by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection during RCRA inspections is multifaceted.

Inspection Process

- RCRA inspections are used by the Maine DEP to assess a facility's compliance with the Maine Hazardous Waste Management Rules Chapters 850-857 adopted under the statute 38 M.R.S.A. Section 1301 et seq.
- Inspections may be conducted based on a routine selection process or may be initiated by a citizen complaint.

Inspection Process

- Inspections are generally unannounced.
(Very rarely are inspections scheduled with the facility).
- Inspectors conduct historical research of a facility's previous inspections, manifest history, and generator status.

Inspection Day

- Hello, I'm with the State and I am here to help.
 - Inspectors will introduce themselves and request to meet with the person responsible for environmental compliance.
- Inspectors generally request a place to meet and discuss the inspection process.

Inspection Day

- Is this going to hurt?
 - Most facilities find the inspection process quite painless, and very educational.
- The inspection will include a comprehensive and all encompassing tour of the facility.
 - Expect to open cabinets and storage areas.

Inspection Day

■ Facility Tour

- Waste generation areas such as:
 - Laboratories, X-ray, pharmacy;
 - Maintenance areas, physical plant
- Waste storage areas including:
 - Hazardous waste storage areas;
(solvents, scintillation wastes, acids, metals, etc.)
 - Universal waste storage areas
(CRTs, lamps, batteries, Hg devices, etc.);
 - Biomedical waste storage areas

Inspection Day

- How long will this take?
 - Inspection times vary widely, but you can expect to spend at least two hours with the inspection team.
- What if we find violations?
 - In most situations Inspection discrepancies will be discussed when noted. The facility will be given an explanation of the violation and what must be done to correct it.

Inspection Day

- Paperwork Review
 - After the facility tour, inspectors will review the facilities required paperwork.
 - This may include:
 - manifest records for the previous three years
 - daily inspections
 - contingency plan
 - personnel training records.

Inspection Day

- Inspection Summary

- At the end of the inspection a summary of the inspection including violations noted, requirements to gain compliance, and any other concerns noted during the inspection will be discussed.

- Any Questions?

- Inspectors will attempt to answer any additional questions at this time.

After the Inspection

- Follow-up letter.
 - Within a week the facility will receive a follow-up letter.
 - This letter will thank the facility for its time and may include:
 - Items needed to complete the inspection process.
 - Actions that must immediately be taken by the facility.

After the Inspection

- Enforcement Actions
 - Letter of Warning (LOW)
 - Notice of Violation (NOV)
 - Notice of Violation with Enforcement Intent
 - Consent Agreement (CA)

After the Inspection

- Letter of Warning
 - Issued for minor violations.
 - May include a compliance schedule.
- Notice of Violation
 - Issued for multiple violations.
 - Includes a compliance schedule.

After the Inspection

- Notice of Violation with Enforcement Intent
 - Issued for multiple violations.
 - Includes a compliance schedule.
 - Includes provision for Consent Agreement.
- Consent Agreement
 - Includes NOV violations and additional language for Board of Environmental Protection.
 - Includes Monetary Penalty.

Ten Common Violations

- Failure to determine if a waste is hazardous.
- Failure to mark containers with "Hazardous Waste".
- Failure to mark containers with the ASD.
- Failure to mark containers with the Full Date.
- Failure to close containers.
- Treatment without a license.
- Failure to conduct personnel training. (LQG only)
- Failure to have a contingency plan. (LQG only)
- Failure to establish arrangements. (LQG only)
- Discharge of hazardous waste.

Together we can make a difference.

