



Compliance Inspection Program

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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Alberta Environment's Compliance Inspection Program is part of the department's overall Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Program.

Conducted under the authority of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the Compliance Inspection Program allows Alberta Environment to ensure that facilities meet the requirements of their approvals or registrations.

Environmental approvals are designed to ensure the environment is protected from a facility's operations. Approvals set out conditions for a facility's operations, such as emission limits and the type of monitoring the facility must conduct.

Under the Compliance Inspection Program, department inspectors can review and inspect *all* aspects of a facility's approval or registration, in one visit to the facility. The inspection can include taking samples of soil, groundwater and effluent, and of air emissions at their source.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Inspections are conducted under the direction of compliance managers in each of the department's three regions. Each region's annual compliance inspection program is strategically developed to address the unique issues of the region and be consistent with other regions.

EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION/EDUCATION

Inspections are designed to identify and correct non-compliance. Whenever possible, inspectors emphasize prevention and education. Significant non-compliance can be the subject of enforcement action.

NO PRIOR NOTICE

The majority of inspections are unannounced. This ensures the program's effectiveness and credibility.

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS

How frequently a facility is inspected depends on a variety of factors, including:

- Potential to cause an adverse effect
- Compliance history
- Environmental performance
- Time elapsed since the last inspection

Companies with greater potential to cause an adverse effect or with a history of non-compliance can expect to be inspected more frequently than others. Good performance is rewarded with less frequent inspections.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Inspections generally include:

- Meeting with facility personnel to explain purpose of inspection and discuss inspection plan
- Conducting the inspection
- Taking any required air, effluent, soil, waste or groundwater samples
- Meeting with facility representative(s) to discuss inspection results, areas of non-compliance and follow up requirements

INSPECTION FOLLOW UP

Soon after each inspection, Alberta Environment sends the facility a report on the results.

In cases involving significant non-compliance, the report is accompanied by a letter of non-compliance. The letter indicates areas of non-compliance and requests a written explanation of how the situation was or will be corrected.

Follow up inspections ensure the appropriate actions have been taken. Failure to take the requested actions can result in enforcement action.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Alberta Environment's Compliance and Inspection Program, contact the Alberta Environment regional office nearest you.

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