



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Rule Implementation Plan

**Chapter 173-400 WAC – General
Regulations for Air Pollution Sources**

**Chapter 173-423 WAC – Low Emission
Vehicles**

**Chapter 173-476 WAC – Ambient Air
Quality Standards**

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Publication and Contact Information

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1602011.html>.

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Ecology publishes this document to meet the requirements of the Washington State Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325)

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Purpose

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides the information in this implementation plan to meet agency and Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.328) requirements related to rule adoptions.

Introduction

On May 31, 2016, Ecology adopted amendments to three rules: Chapter 173-400 WAC, General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources; Chapter 173-423 WAC, Low Emission Vehicles; Chapter 173-476 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards (AO # 16-01). The purpose of this rule implementation plan is to inform those who must comply with Chapter 173-400 WAC, Chapter 173-423 WAC, and Chapter 173-476 WAC about how Ecology intends to:

- Implement and enforce the rule.
- Inform and educate persons affected by the rule.
- Promote and assist voluntary compliance for the rule.
- Evaluate the rule.
- Train and inform Ecology staff about the new or amended rule.

Also included in this plan is information about:

- Supporting documents that may need to be written or revised because of the new rule or amended rule.
- Other resources where more information about the rule is available.
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation.

Implementation and Enforcement

Implementation and enforcement of these rules lie with Ecology and the seven local air agencies responsible for maintaining air quality within their jurisdictions. Local air authority staff and Ecology staff are the resources that will implement and enforce these rules.

Permitting agency	Jurisdiction
Benton Clean Air Agency	Benton County
Northwest Clean Air Agency	Island, Skagit & Whatcom counties
Olympic Region Clean Air Agency	Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston & Pacific counties
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	King, Kitsap, Pierce & Snohomish County
Southwest Clean Air Agency	Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, & Wahkiakum counties
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Spokane
Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency	Yakima
Central Regional Office - Dept. of Ecology	Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat & Okanogan counties

Eastern Regional Office – Dept. of Ecology	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla & Whitman counties
Northwest Regional Office – Dept. of Ecology	San Juan County
Industrial Section, Waste 2 Resources Program – Dept. of Ecology	Major industries in Washington State
Nuclear Waste Program – Dept. of Ecology	U.S. Dept. of Energy’s Hanford Site

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

Ecology will issue a press release when the rule is adopted and send email notice to the Rules SIP listserv and WAC track listserv. When applicants contact Ecology and the local air agencies, we will inform and educate them about the rule changes that affect them.

Ecology will post the final rule amendment language on Ecology’s web page. Ecology will post the codified rule incorporating these revisions on the agency web page when made available from the Office of the Code Reviser.

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

Ecology is adopting the rule amendments to assure consistency with federal requirements. Ecology will then adopt relevant changes in to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to meet federal Clean Air Act requirements.

Ecology and local air agencies will promote voluntary compliance through technical assistance when air emission permits are applied for, issued, or revised.

Evaluating the Rule

Chapters 173-400, 173-423, and 173-476 WAC are a substantial part of the framework of Washington’s program to meet federal air quality standards and protect human health. Changes to the rule will be monitored and may be discussed by a variety of Ecology and local air agency staff. Ecology’s Air Quality staff will track suggested changes.

Ecology will submit relevant rule changes to EPA for approval into the State Implementation Plan (SIP), a statewide plan for meeting air quality standards. When EPA considers the adopted rule changes for adoption into the SIP, they will review the changes for compliance with the federal Clean Air Act and its implementing regulations. If EPA finds the state is out of compliance with federal regulations, they will notify Ecology and we will have the opportunity to revise rule language to achieve compliance.

Ecology will continue to assess if Chapters 173-400, 173-423, and 173-476 WAC meet federal standards and determine if adjustments are necessary.

Training and Informing Ecology Staff

Many of the Ecology staff responsible for implementing these revised rules work directly with the affected industrial sources and are already familiar with the nuances of the changes to these rules. These staff are available to coach other permit writers in their sections on how to best implement the changes.

List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised

No documents need to be amended in response to these revisions.

More Information

For more information on the Air Quality Program see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/airhome.html>

Rulemaking documents are available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/rules/rules_laws/wac173401/1312/documents.htm

For more information on local clean air agencies see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/local.html>

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