

Focus on: Certificate of Financial Responsibility



Figure 1: Boat and industry on Puget Sound. Credit: Ecology

Overview

Washington businesses that refine, store, or transfer petroleum products and commercial vessels over 300 gross tons must have the financial resources to pay for the cleanup and damage costs of an oil spill to waters of the state.

Obtaining a Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR) means that a business has demonstrated their ability to cover the costs of oil spills to Ecology.

Businesses can demonstrate financial responsibility (FR) through:

- insurance
- self-insurance
- a corporate guarantee
- a letter of credit
- a surety bond
- a certificate of deposit, or
- a certificate from another state that meets WA state standards.

Proving FR ensures sufficient resources are available for oil spill clean-up and damage mitigation, and to protect taxpayers.

Obtaining and Maintaining a COFR

1. Regulated businesses can get a COFR by applying online through the SecureAccess Washington (SAW) application portal, where they can select their facility(ies) and begin an application.
2. The COFR application will request basic contact information and documentation of proof of FR. Submitters are encouraged to use Ecology-drafted forms (available on the [COFR webpage](#)) to ensure their proof of FR is compliant.
3. All complete applications are reviewed within 30 days of submission. Incomplete applications will be returned with information about how to complete the application.
4. COFRs are valid for two years from the date of issue. Businesses must maintain their proof of FR throughout this period and reapply at least 30 days before the COFR expires.

Related Information

For more information, visit:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Financial-responsibility-for-oil-spills>

Contact information

Diana Davis
COFR@ECY.WA.GOV
(425)758-0483

ADA accessibility

To request ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <http://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.