

Air Quality Registration Program

Ecology has operated an Air Quality Registration Program since the early 1970s. About 500 air pollution sources are registered with Ecology by businesses throughout central and eastern Washington and San Juan County. Ecology uses the Registration Program to develop and maintain a current and accurate record of industrial and commercial sources of air pollution. The information we collect through this program helps us evaluate the effectiveness of air pollution control strategies and verify whether a facility is meeting air pollution requirements.

Q: How does the registration process work?

A: The program has three parts: emissions inventory, emission calculations, and inspections.

Emissions inventory

Ecology collects information from registered businesses. This information is due back to Ecology by January 31. The information collected will provide details about the businesses' processes, sources of air emissions, emission control devices and material throughput.

Emission calculations

Businesses provide information on their air emissions. Ecology uses this information to determine which air pollution rules apply and the registration category for that business.

Inspections

Ecology periodically inspects the registered business to verify information submitted, answer questions, and determine compliance with air quality rules and permits. After an inspection, Ecology notifies the business of the results of the inspection.

Q: What are the Registration Program categories?

A: The amount of air pollutants emitted by a source determines its registration program category. There are three registration categories:

- Annual - Emission inventories and inspections are required every year
- Periodic - Emission inventories and inspections are required every three years
- Exempt - Emission inventories are required every six years, with no regular inspections

Businesses that move between categories may be required to turn in an emission inventory more frequently to ensure they are in the correct category. You can find more information about the Registration Program Emission Rates Table on our web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/permit_register/Registration.html .

MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website for more information:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/permit_register/Registration.html

CONTACTS

You can contact the appropriate Ecology office if your business is located in the counties below:

Central Regional Office

Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan counties
Shawn Nolph: (509) 454-7845

Eastern Regional Office

Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman counties
Randall Ruddick (509) 329-3528
John Poffenroth (509) 329-3468

Northwest Regional Office

San Juan County
Nick Roach (425) 649-7082

All other counties are under the jurisdiction of their local clean air agency. For more information, contact your local clean air agency. You can find this information on our website <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/local.html>.

Special accommodations

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 509-329-3400.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which sources must register?

A: WAC 173-400-100 identifies types of sources that must register with Ecology. They are identified by: category, equipment type, federal rule, and emissions limits in the permit. You can find information about WAC 173-400-100 on our web site: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-400-100>.

Q: How does a business register with Ecology?

A: Existing businesses with sources of air pollution will be asked to fill out registration forms provided by Ecology. These forms include process information, sources of air emissions, emission control devices, and material throughput. Businesses establishing new air pollution sources must first apply for an air quality permit (Notice of Construction) with Ecology. This permit process will request most of the information needed to initially register your business. You can find more information about the Notice of Construction process on our website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/permit_register/noc.html.

Q: Does a business have to register if it doesn't need a permit?

A: Some businesses may have to register and pay fees even if they not required to obtain an air quality permit.

Q: Are there fees associated with registration?

A: Yes. Fees are charged annually based on emissions or source category. Some businesses may qualify for a fee reduction or payment plan. You can find more information about these options on our web site: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/permit_register/Registration.html#fee.

Q: When should I notify Ecology about changes to my business?

A: All businesses must notify Ecology prior to change of ownership, closure, expansion, adding new equipment, or changing out/replacing existing equipment. Call your regional office representative if you have questions. Find your regional contact on Page 1.

Q: How do I avoid common problems found during inspections?

A: The best ways to avoid common problems are:

- Know what permits you have, where they are located, and what they require
- Make sure workers follow practices and keep documentation required by permits and state rules
- Properly operate and maintain your equipment
- Keep track of material use
- Minimize creation of dust from such things as paved and unpaved roads, materials handling and storage, and equipment
- Keep containers of volatile materials covered when not in use

Contact your region's representative if you have questions. Find your regional contact on Page 1.

Q: Does Ecology provide regulatory assistance?

A: Yes. Ecology's inspectors can help you determine how to comply with the regulations. See Page 1 for contact information.