

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

DISCLAIMER

This document has been developed to provide a general overview of the federal environmental requirements for the construction industry. This document contains a general discussion on the common requirements pertaining to the construction industry. Detailed aspects of each requirement are not included. This document also contains a checklist to facilitate discussion and assignment of environmental responsibilities among the parties involved in a construction project. Additionally, self-audit checklists are provided in Part II of the document. These checklists can be used once the construction project has commenced. This document is intended solely as guidance on the federal requirements, and readers should consult with their states for state-specific requirements. Any variation between applicable regulations and the information provided in this document is unintentional, and, in the case of such variations, the requirements of the regulations govern.

This guidance does not constitute rulemaking by EPA and may not be relied on to create a substantive or procedural right or benefit enforceable by any person. EPA may take action at variance with this guidance and its internal procedures.

This document also identifies governmental and non-governmental resources that may be helpful to the construction industry. EPA does not make any guarantee or assume any liability with respect to either the use of any information or recommendation made by these resources. The use of non-governmental resources provided in this document is not to be viewed as an endorsement of these resources by EPA.



Foreword

As a participant in the construction and development process, your success may depend on how well you identify, analyze, and manage your environmental risks. Simply being unaware of your environmental obligations does not relieve you of your liability.

This planning guide was developed in a collaborative effort between U.S. EPA and its partners. Its purpose is to help you to:

- Recognize the federal environmental requirements and factor in the associated expenses for the project;
- Designate the responsible party to fulfill these requirements;
- Complete the requirements by filing the necessary paperwork, performing the required activities, and obtaining the essential permits; and
- Identify additional sources of information to help implement these requirements throughout your project.

The guide contains two parts. Part I presents background information on environmental requirements for the construction and development industries. It also contains a checklist to help assign environmental responsibilities. Part II contains seven self-audit checklists that help construction companies evaluate their compliance status in these seven areas once the project has commenced.

This guide can be used at the following stages of your project:

Pre-Bid

A clear understanding of the federal environmental requirements is necessary even at the pre-bid phase. Not including the cost of complying with environmental requirements up front can lead to cost overruns or profit loss in the future. By using this document, owners/developers will be able to determine the level of effort needed to comply with the requirements, and the contractors/subcontractors can more accurately include environmental compliance costs in their bids.

Pre-Construction

If you do not assign responsibility for environmental compliance before you start the project, some important steps may be omitted during construction. Prior to breaking ground, you should sit down with the other members of the construction team, and use this document to assign responsibility for meeting your environmental obligations. Section II in Part I of this guide contains a checklist of required tasks for each federal environmental regulation associated with the construction process. By completing these checklists prior to breaking ground, you will help ensure that your environmental requirements are not overlooked during construction.

During Construction

No matter how thoroughly you prepare for a construction project, you may still encounter unexpected situations requiring environmental knowledge and understanding. You can use this guide as a reference tool to find answers to questions that you encounter during the construction process. It identifies many resources you will find useful. Additionally, the seven self-audit checklists contained in Part II of this guide will help you apply the knowledge gained in Part I to your actual construction site.

With the help of this document, you can properly manage your environmental responsibilities, and therefore reduce the risk of future enforcement actions and penalties.