

Compliance Inspections Before, During and After

How you can control them

Mark Rader Southwest Regional Office





A compliance inspection consists of two fundamental components

1. Is the facility inspected compliant?

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- 1. Is the facility inspected compliant?
- 2. Are the individuals participating competent? (either you or me)

Table 1. Total Number of Final Rules Published in Recent Years, 1997-2012 Calendar Year Number of Final Rules

3,930	2005	3,301
4,388	2006	3,065
4,336	2007	2,947
4,079	2008	3,085
3,423	2009	3,471
3,559	2010	3,261
3,744	2011	3,835
3,661	2012	2,482
	4,388 4,336 4,079 3,423 3,559 3,744	4,38820064,33620074,07920083,42320093,55920103,7442011

Source: Government Accountability Office's Federal Rules Database; data retrieved on February 22, 2013. Data provided are the numbers of rules published each year in the *Federal Register* and submitted to GAO under Section 801 of the Congressional Review Act, which requires that agencies submit their rules to GAO and to both houses of Congress before they can take effect (5 U.S.C. §§ 801-808).



So, given it is impossible to know all the rules the government writes, how can you influence an inspector to where you win?



Hit the High Points/ Low Hanging Fruit Principle

Make sure you can cover both the important and easy things related to each set of regulatory standards.

- 1. Know your permits/status
- 2. Get copies of checklists
- 3. Know who inspects you
- 4. Ask questions of them
- 5. Get written answers



"Due Diligence"

Do the best you can to know the major rules which apply and keep record of your efforts. Find out what items on a checklist are the ones which trigger enforcement actions and focus your efforts on always getting those correct.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

"failure to determine"

"disposal without a permit"

Clean Water Law

"unpermitted discharges"

Clean Air Act

"failure to obtain a permit"

Solid Waste Management Law

"disposal without a permit"

Safe Drinking Water Law

"failure to pay fees"



Little known fact





Little known fact



You control much more of the inspection than you realize



How do you give up control?



How do you give up control?

You say
"I don't know"



What do you say other than "I don't know"?

"John knows the answer; can I get back with you?"

"Amy is responsible for this area, we can talk to
her now or later if you'd like."

"That is in the files, can I email it to you?"

If you don't know the answer, find someone who does and answer the question. It is better to delay for a moment to get the information as opposed to answering the question with an "I don't know"



What else matters?

What about other things to influence the direction of the inspection, both during and after?



Is it documented?

Is it consistent?



Where does that drain go?



Simple thing - Safety procedures?



Mark Twain - "A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference" Winston Churchill







What about after the inspection?

Do you still have influence?



Most people don't realize you can influence the content of a report of inspection until it is mailed.



What are our policies? What guides do we follow?

Operations Manual
Compliance Manual
Conference, Conciliation and Persuasion

Conference, Conciliation & Persuasion Required by State Statutes

"...a process of verbal or written communications consisting of meetings, reports, correspondence or telephone conferences between authorized representatives of the department and the alleged violator. The process shall, at a minimum, consist of one offer to meet with the alleged violator tendered by the department. During any such meeting, the department and the alleged violator shall negotiate in good faith to eliminate the alleged violation and shall attempt to agree upon a plan to achieve compliance."



Talk to the Inspector

Clearly understand what is in the report and being requested of you.



How much documentation?

The best compliance data may not equate well with "billable"



What if you get a penalty letter

Deviation from Rule

H	1
A	1
F	?
\	/

Major	Major	Major
Major	Moderate	Minor
\$8K - \$10K	\$6K - \$8K	\$4K-\$6K
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Major	Moderate	Minor
\$6K - \$8K	\$4K - \$6K	\$2K - \$4K
Minor	Minor	Minor
Major	Moderate	Minor
\$2K - \$4K	\$750 - \$2K	\$0 - \$750



Make an offer

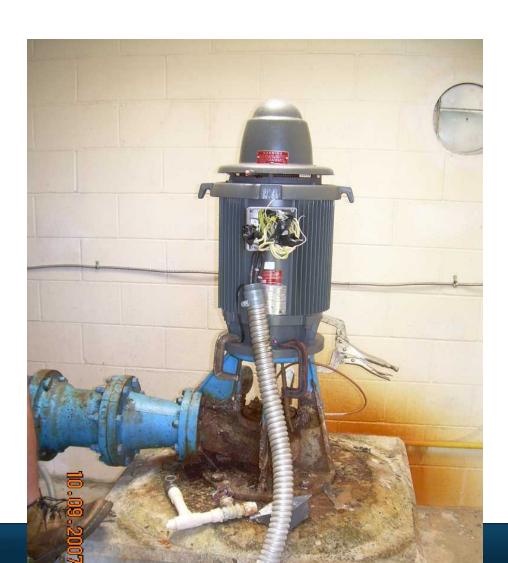
If you aren't throwing bait, you aren't catching fish



How else can you prepare?

Designate contacts for specific issues

Mock inspections
Share knowledge
Share responsibility





Space heater and flammables



Questions?

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