

What to Expect During an SQG Inspection

The following information is to provide business owners guidance as to what to expect during a SQG inspection:

- Typically, a SQG inspection is performed unannounced.
- Inspectors will ask to meet with the facility owner or manager.
- A review of all waste disposal receipts for the last 3 years will be performed. This is to help determine the generator status of the facility.
- A review of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and any laboratory analyses will also be performed. This is to assist the facility owner in determining which wastes are hazardous or non-hazardous and how to properly manage them.
- A complete inspection of the facility, including any outside areas, will be conducted along with the facility owner or manager. The inspector will look at the operations of the facility, the chemicals used, how wastes are stored and where. Questions related to the above will be asked to clarify how the facility operates. It is expected that the facility owner or manager will be completely honest with how the facility operates so the inspector has a true understanding of what is going on and can advise the owner or manager accordingly.
- The inspector will also advise the owner or manager of other government regulations that may be applicable. Depending on the concern, it may be necessary to refer it to the appropriate agency for further investigation.
- Based on the inspection and the information provided, the inspector will advise the owner of any corrective actions that need to be performed and the timeframe for completing them. Corrective actions will be listed on a Non-compliance checklist which is left with the owner at the time of the inspection or in a letter sent after the fact.
- Depending on the corrective actions, a reinspection of the facility may be necessary. If not, communication through telephone conversations and/or e-mails will suffice to resolve the issues.
- While SQG inspections are designed to be educational, they are still regulatory in nature. Therefore, cooperating with the inspector and correcting any concerns noted is the key to a successful SQG inspection.