

THE MICHIGAN GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The *Michigan Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations* is a joint publication of the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Manufacturers, institutions, local governments, consultants, and regulators will all benefit from this guide, which simplifies the maze of environmental, health, and safety obligations facing Michigan's businesses and institutions. The guidebook is a ready-reference tool for anyone striving toward compliance with state and federal regulations that affect businesses and institutions. Although some reference is made to local regulations, they are not discussed in any detail. Be sure to contact your local government officials for information on applicable local requirements.



Many businesses and institutions utilize a variety of materials and potentially hazardous chemicals that generate waste and, in turn, must be handled, treated, or disposed of properly. Although the average business is not a major source of pollution, the industry's aggregate impact on the environment is substantial. Improper handling of materials and waste products often contributes to environmental contamination, leading to costly and harmful effects on everyone involved.

This guidebook describes how wastes may enter the environment, how to prevent them from doing so, and which remediation methods to use if contamination does occur. Some of the most common concerns, along with applicable solutions, are described in the chapters that follow. Topics include discharge of air pollutants; disposal of solid, liquid, and hazardous waste; discharges of wastewater to municipal sewage systems, storm drains, and on-site septic systems; storage of materials; and discharges/releases on the land or into lakes and streams.

Along with discussing these environmental protection issues, the guidebook also stresses the importance of health and safety in the work place, outlines applicable health and safety regulations, and teaches how to comply with them. Some topics covered include integrating safety into operations as a normal business process, discussing safety at regular business meetings, participating in periodic housekeeping and safety inspections, availability and use of personal protection equipment, conducting routine safety training, and regular review of performance.

The final two chapters of the guidebook focus on construction and fire code requirements. These topics include obtaining building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits; various fire codes adopted by local municipalities; and local fire department response to hazardous material spills.

The promotion of a safe and healthy environment is in the best interest of all parties. By using the knowledge set forth in this guidebook to develop and sustain effective health and safety programs, Michigan businesses can steer clear of compliance problems, avoid costly penalties, and save money in the long run.

The ***Michigan Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations*** is intended for guidance only and may be impacted by changes in legislation, rules, and regulations adopted after the date of publication. The suggestions given for identifying and implementing pollution prevention opportunities are not to be used as a substitute for applicable codes, rules, and regulations that impact businesses. Although the guidebook makes every effort to teach users how to meet applicable compliance obligations, use of this guidebook does not constitute the rendering of legal advice.

Diligent attention was given to assure that the information presented herein is accurate as of the date of publication; however, there is no guarantee, expressed or implied, that use of this guidebook will satisfy all regulatory requirements mandated by laws and their respective enforcement agencies. Reliance on information from this document is not usable as a defense in any enforcement action or litigation. The state of Michigan shall be held harmless for any cause of action brought on as a result of using of this publication.