

CHAPTER 75-1 - ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT PROCESS

75-1.1 PURPOSE

This chapter designates the *Environmental Auditing Protocol* as the guidance for the Indian Health Service (IHS) to implement the environmental audit process.

75-1.2 BACKGROUND

The audit and remediation process is intended to bring IHS facilities into compliance with Federal environmental laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and other applicable criteria related to the environment.

75-1.3 GUIDELINES

The *Environmental Auditing Protocol* and *Self-Assessment Questionnaire*, found at (<http://facilities.ihs.gov/index.cfm?page=documents>), is the basis of the IHS to review environmental compliance at IHS owned or operated sites. This protocol applies to all facilities that IHS owns or leases regardless of who operates them and all facilities IHS operates regardless of who owns them. Tribal entities may use the protocol if they so desire and at their discretion.

If guidance for a particular situation is not found in the *Environmental Auditing Protocol*, more specific guidance should be sought for that particular situation from a source with more specialized knowledge related to the particular issue. Findings at IHS facilities resulting from the audit shall be entered into the appropriate tab within the Health Facilities Data System (HFDS) and coded with the correct deficiency code.

Each Area OEHE Director shall appoint an Area Environmental Audit Coordinator (AEAC) to coordinate the environmental audit process within their Area. The AEAC's name shall be forwarded to the Environmental Audit Coordinator, Division of Facilities Operations, Headquarters and will be retained for future reference. A change of AEAC should be reported to the Headquarters Environmental Audit Coordinator.

Audits shall be conducted every five years. It is recommended that Areas complete audits for approximately 20 percent of the facilities within their Area annually to meet the 5 year cycle. The appropriate fields in HFDS shall be updated upon completion of each audit; including at a minimum the date of the last audit, the date of the next planned audit, and any significant findings.

If you have any questions or need to acquire a copy of the protocol or questionnaire, please contact IHSEnvironmentalSteeringCommittee@ihs.gov.