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Foto: John Petter Reinertsen

A strategy for inspection and enforcement (work) 2012-2015

The Norwegian Environment Agency work to ensure compliance with the national regulations on products and pollution. The results of our inspections are used not just to take firm action against those who break the law. They also provide vital information for further development of requirements and regulations. In addition, we give information and guidance concerning regulatory requirements and emission permits. Our inspection strategy describes the areas of focus for the Environment Agency and the County Governors

On the coming years we will strengthen our efforts on the following:

- taking swift and decisive action where we discover serious violations of laws and regulations
- using a wide range of methods to double check and verify information
- systematically following up tips about illegal practices
- communicating our expectations and inspection results to the business community and trade associations

Working to ensure compliance

The Environment Agency's control strategy describes the areas of focus for the Environment Agency and the County Governor's Department of Environmental Protection for the next three years.

The Environment Agency administers and enforces the Pollution Control Act, the Product Control Act, and the Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Act and their respective regulations. We grant permits, formulate requirements, and determine emission limits. The Environment Agency carries out risk-based pollution control and follows up violations of laws and regulations.

The Environment Agency leads the county governor's pollution control efforts. Our aim is to coordinate their control tasks in a uniform and effective manner

Risk-based Inspections

Our inspection plan will focus on the sectors that have the greatest impact on the environment or where there is a substantial risk of infringing environmental laws and regulations.

Our priorities are:

- to develop three year, risk-based inspection plans
- to vary our monitoring methods to ensure an efficient and effective use of our resources
- to increase the number of unannounced inspections
- to check implementation of new set of regulations
- to verify information by reviewing documents , taking sample analyses and interviewing employees
- to follow up tips and reports of environmental offences/infringements

Better Inspection Results through collaboration and analysis

We collaborate with other agencies in order to improve the use of our resources.

A good dialogue with the trade associations and well publicized inspection results will lead to broader awareness and improved standards in all business sectors.

Our priorities are:

- to engage in inspection activities with other agencies
- to communicate our expectations to the business sectors about regulatory compliance and follow up of inspection findings
- to actively participate in the development of inspection work in the Nordic countries and the EU, and to share our experience with other countries
- to analyze the impact of our inspections to ensure that they are as effective and targeted as possible

Swift and decisive action against to serious violations

We shall use all necessary means to ensure compliance with the regulations. When serious violations are uncovered, we shall take swift and decisive action.

Our priorities are:

- to develop and refine clear criteria as to what constitutes a serious violation
- to systematically check that serious violations have been rectified
- to use the entire range of administrative instruments to ensure compliance
- to consider reporting to the police when serious violations are uncovered
- to use the media to spread information about the results of our activities

Good inspection expertise

We shall strive to communicate in a clear and easy to understand manner both orally and in writing. The Norwegian Environment Agency shall collaborate in the training of county and government employees in order to strengthen their professional expertise and ensure uniform practice.

Our priorities are:

- to ensure that personnel involved in environmental inspections are well-trained
- to learn by evaluating previous inspections and tasks
- to ensure consistent practice through good routines, job descriptions and administrative instruments

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