

We expect regulated entities to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and rules without direct oversight by Ecology. We are available to answer questions to help regulated entities better understand their responsibilities with our laws and rules. When noncompliance occurs, we may use a variety of tools to notify the regulated entity.

Identifying toxic chemicals through product testing

One option for monitoring product compliance is by testing products for restricted chemicals. Our [product studies](#) team designs studies, develops methods, and tests for toxic chemicals in a variety of consumer products to collect information on which chemicals are present in certain products.

Identifying toxic chemicals through product testing

We monitor the market by testing products to check for toxic chemicals. Our [product testing program](#) focuses on priority chemicals found in consumer products. When deciding what to test we consider factors such as overburdened communities, vulnerable populations, and manufacturers with past violations. We collect product samples from individual stores, shopping centers, and online retailers.

Complaints and third-party information

We may use complaints, data, and information received from external parties as a starting place for conversations with regulated entities.

Monitoring compliance with reporting requirements

To monitor compliance with reporting requirements, we may review annual reports for completeness and may send inquiries to responsible parties for things such as:

- Missing information.
- Late reports.
- Reports that include a priority consumer product under a restriction for the priority chemical or chemical class.
- Duplicate reports or overreports.
- Complaints we've received.

Noncompliance and enforcement process

Regulated entities are responsible for complying with all applicable laws and rules. We have the authority to issue penalties for violations. When an enforcement action is necessary, we will ensure that the action is clearly defined and:

- Falls within the authority of the law or rule.
- Provides clear direction about how to achieve compliance.
- Provides a compliance schedule.
- Outlines the consequences of continued noncompliance.

We design compliance strategies to encourage regulated entities to develop and maintain compliant practices and protect the environment and public health.

Services and resources to support compliance and voluntary efforts

We intend to provide technical resources to support compliance efforts and inform regulated entities. We'll provide these services and resources as funding is available. Examples include:

- Developing guidance documents.
- Updating webpages.
- Creating educational videos.
- Hosting webinars, or virtual trainings.
- Updating and maintaining the [High Priority Chemicals Data System](#).
- Sharing reference materials.
- Providing compliance assistance from our team.