



## Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Norway 2021

### release notes

**STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces** the release of its newly developed environmental, health and safety (EHS) audit protocol for Norway. This audit protocol covers relevant national EHS requirements. The regulatory date for the current release is September 2021.

This EHS audit protocol is organized around sixteen topics, with a separate section devoted to each, as follows:

- General Environmental
- Air Emissions
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Water Resources
- Above and Below Ground Tank Management
- Community Noise
- PCBs
- Asbestos
- General Health and Safety
- Equipment, Machine and Electrical Safety
- Material Handling and General In-Plant Safety
- Fire Safety
- Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Industrial Hygiene
- Chemical Management
- Construction Work Site Safety

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### highlights of the regulatory framework

In Norway, environmental protection is regulated through laws and regulations with supporting government guidance. The main ministry regulating the field of environmental protection is the Ministry of Climate and Environment, which has the primary responsibility for the government's environmental policy. The Ministry has 5 primary departments, including the Department for Marine Management and Pollution Control, the Department for Climate Change, and the Department for Nature Management. In addition, the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet) is an administrative body under the Ministry that is responsible for managing environmental data, enforcing environmental legislation, and providing direction for new environmental policy development.

More information about the Ministry of Climate and Environment is available online at: <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kld/organisation/id692/> (last accessed in September 2021).  
More information about the Norwegian Environment Agency is available online at: <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kld/organisation/id692/> (last access in September 2021).

# release notes

*please review*

*Act on the Protection against Pollution and Waste (Pollution Control Act), LOV-1981-03-13-6* is the primary legislation for the framework legislation for environmental protection. It includes requirements for conducting environmental impact assessments, permitting of environmentally hazardous enterprises and activities, and dealing with contaminated land. The Act specifies goals for environmental protection whose details are specified in lower-level regulations issued by the Parliament and by various agencies, including the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet). It also establishes a framework for an integrated permit system, which provides that most facilities are also regulated through terms and conditions in an environmental permit.

*Pollution Control Act, LOV-1981-03-13-6* is further implemented by various regulations, including the *Regulations on Environmental Health Protection, FOR-2003-04-25-486* and the *Regulations on the Limitation of Pollution (Pollution Control Regulations), FOR-2004-06-01-931*.

*Regulations on Environmental Health Protection, FOR-2003-04-25-486* promote public health and contribute to good environmental conditions; as well as to safeguard the population against factors in the environment, including biological, chemical, physical, and social, which may adversely affect health. The Regulations apply to private and public companies and properties whose conditions can directly or indirectly affect health.

*Pollution Control Regulations, FOR-2004-06-01-931* provide detailed rules on pollution. Pollution may be the release of substances to air, water or soil, noise, vibration, light, radiation, and the influence of temperature. In addition, the *Pollution Control Regulations* adopt rules on emergency preparedness for pollution, dredging and dumping of material into water, pollution from shipping, etc.

As with environmental protection, occupational health and safety in Norway is regulated through laws and regulations with supporting government guidance. The main ministry regulating occupational health and safety is the Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion. The Ministry has several departments, including the Working Environment and Safety Department. The Working Environment and Safety Department is responsible for developing and implementing policy and legislation on all aspects of the working life, including occupational health and safety.

More information about the Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion is available online at: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dep/aid/id165/> (last accessed in September 2021).

The framework law in the field of occupational health and safety is the *Act on the Working Environment, Working Time and Employment Protection (Working Environment Act), LOV-2005-06-17-62*. The purpose of the Act is to ensure a working environment that provides the basis for a health-promoting and meaningful work situation, which provides full security against physical and mental harm, and with a welfare standard that is always in line with technological and social developments in society, and to ensure safe working conditions and equal treatment in working life.

*Working Environment Act, LOV-2005-06-17-62* is further implemented by various regulations, including the *Regulations on the Design and Layout of Workplaces, FOR-2011-12-06-1356* and the Regulations relating to *Work Performance, Work Equipment Use and the Related Technical Requirements, FOR-2011-12-06-1357*.

*Regulations on the Design and Layout of Workplaces, FOR-2011-12-06-1356* ensure that employees' safety, health, and welfare are safeguarded by designing workplaces and work premises in relation to the work performed, the individual employee, and to specific risk conditions.

*Regulations relating to Work Performance, Work Equipment Use and the Related Technical Requirements, FOR-2011-12-06-1357* ensure that the execution of work and the use of work equipment are carried out in a proper manner, so that the workers are protected against damage to life or health.

It is also important to note the impact of EU legislation in Norway. The European Economic Area, EEA (det Europeiske Økonomiske Samarbejdsområdet, EØS), unites the EU Member States and the three EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) into an Internal Market governed by the same basic rules. The EEA Agreement also includes participation in several EU programs, including research, innovation, energy, transport, environment, public health, emergency issues and emergency preparedness. Norway adopts and implements EU Regulations and transposes EU Directives pursuant to the *EEA Act*, which describes the relationship between Norway and the EU. EEA-Lex is a database that can be used to determine whether EU legislation has been incorporated into the EEA Agreement. EEA-Lex is available at: <https://www.efta.int/eea-lex> (last accessed in September 2021).

While EU Regulations are directly applicable in all EU Member States, Norway is obliged to implement, in Norwegian law, EU Regulations that are included in the Annex to the EEA Agreement, which encompass environmental, health and safety issues. Most of the EU Regulations are adopted and implemented in Norway via a Norwegian regulation which explicitly says that it adopts a specific EU Regulation(s), but sometimes implementation of EU Regulations requires legislative changes or new laws. EU Regulations do not have a direct effect in Norway unless they have been adopted and implemented into Norwegian law. Then, their provisions apply to Norwegian citizens and entities.



## related STP products

- **Environmental, Health & Safety Audit Protocols—Other Jurisdictions.** For jurisdictions worldwide, these protocols are an innovative tool for assessing compliance with environmental, health and safety legislation. Available formats: online and via risk management systems.

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