

SYNOPSIS OF COURSE: CONDUCTING MULTI-MEDIA INSPECTIONS

An International Training Course

This course is one of series designed to build capacity for implementing environmental management programs in a variety of governments and cultures. The purpose of the series of training courses in their format and content is to stimulate participants to think creatively about how to translate national goals, laws, and requirements into action that effectively changes behavior in society so as to achieve the desired environmental results. In particular, the inspector training course provides an overview for new inspector personnel of the basics of environmental compliance inspections but also provides a basic understanding of several industrial processes from the vantage point of control and pollution prevention.

What is the Training?

The Conducting Multi-Media Inspections training is an intensive, five-day course for governmental officials responsible for assuring that facilities subject to environmental requirements, specified in laws, regulations and/or permits, are in compliance with those requirements. The course provides information and training on the role of multi-media inspections for enforcement and compliance assurance, and trains participants on how to safely conduct inspections for compliance with air, water and hazardous waste laws.

Why Was This Training Developed?

Conducting Multi-Media Inspections training was created in response to a need recognized in the Mexico-U.S. Border Plan for training and education of environmental inspectors. The course was developed by USEPA during 1991 and 1992, in coordination with Mexico's Secretaria de Desarrolla Social (SEDESOL). The training, however, has been subsequently adapted to meet the needs of other countries and cultures. The use of inspections is an effective tool for environmental enforcement and compliance assurance, which is gaining more and more attention as the public, governments, and industry take action to prevent and reduce the health and environmental consequences of pollution.

What Does the Course Do?

This course provides training and knowledge to conduct multi-media inspections. It includes a discussion of the role of inspections in the national environmental program, health and safety issues, compliance inspection planning, plant survey and inspection techniques, industrial processes, air, water and hazardous waste emission points, pollution control devices, and pollution prevention activities. Course materials include information on several industrial processes including: processing or manufacturing of petrochemicals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, metals, leather goods (tanneries), furniture finishing, wood preservation, cement, injection molding, printed circuit boards, or electroplating.

Who Will Benefit from the Course?

The course is designed especially for government officials charged with conducting inspections to ensure environmental compliance at industrial facilities. Course participants may include officials of national agencies responsible for health, safety and environmental law enforcement.

How is the Course Delivered?

The course is delivered by instructors who guide attendees through the materials. The course may be delivered by USEPA instructors, or by in-country instructors who have training and experience in the substance of the course.

What Do Participants Learn?**Day 1**

Review of the national environmental program of the country where the course is being delivered and the role of inspections in enforcement and compliance assurance.

Day 2

During the morning, participants learn health and safety precautions to be taken during field activities. Topics include preparation for field activity, hazard evaluation, and the use of protective clothing and respiratory devices. The afternoon session provides an overview of the multi-media inspection process, including planning, opening conference, information gathering and post-inspection activities.

Day 3

The morning session provides a brief introduction to pollution prevention, and then focuses on specific inspection issues for air, water, and hazardous waste. The afternoon session discusses specific issues of inspecting industrial processes chosen by the host country. For example, the industrial processes may include processing or manufacturing of petrochemicals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, metals, leather goods (tanneries), furniture finishing, wood preservation, cement, injection molding, printed circuit boards, or electroplating.

Day 4

Continuation of inspection issues for industrial processes chosen by the host country.

Day 5

Field Trip to industrial processing plant and course wrap-up.