



# Healthcare Environmental Compliance and Improvement:

*A guide to improving compliance with  
JCAHO Environment of Care Standards*



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# How is H2E working with JCAHO?

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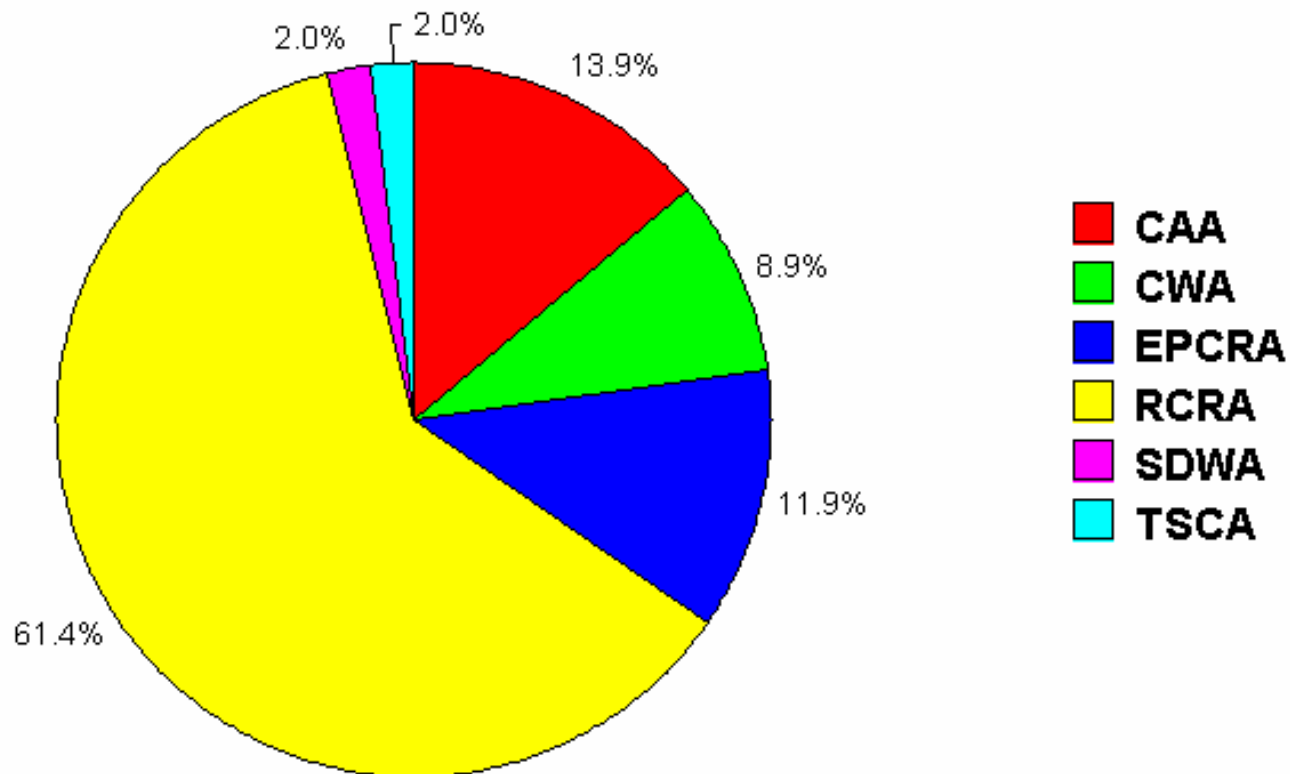
- H2E has a grant from the US EPA that funded the development of an “Environmental Compliance and Improvement Guide” that aims to help healthcare professionals link environmental requirements more closely with JCAHO standards so that the maze of regulatory issues is more manageable
- The grant also aims provide education and training to JCAHO surveyors and healthcare professionals on environmental regulations.



# Environmental Compliance Violations found in Region 2: Primarily NY and NJ

## MEDIA

%VIOLATIONS





# Regulatory Compliance in Healthcare

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- Healthcare has flown under the regulatory radar for years...
- Mid 1990's EPA had focus on Colleges and Universities -- overlapped with university hospitals...

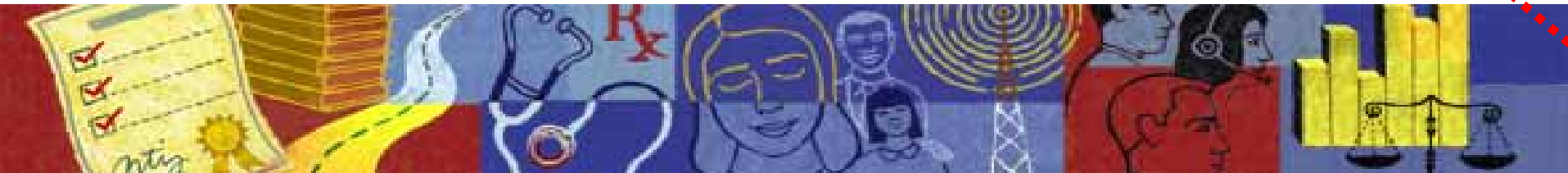
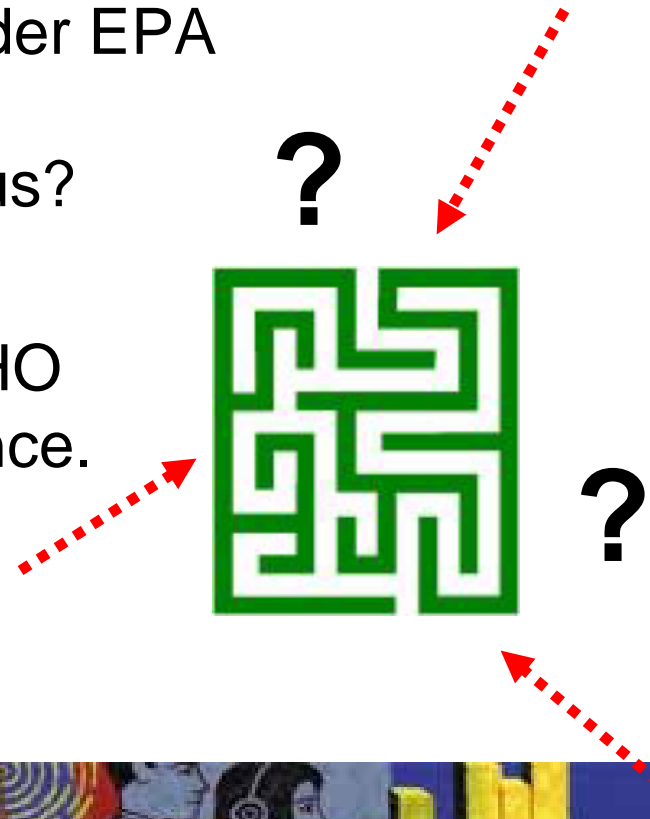
## What they found:

- 1 out of 2 hospitals has a penalty violation
- Compared to 1 out of 30 in general industry

# What does that have to do with Joint Commission?

Inspected hospitals expressed confusion that despite just “passing” JCAHO, they still had significant compliance violations under EPA

- Shouldn't JCAHO have told us or cited us?
- It must not be that important since JCAHO didn't survey on environmental compliance.
- Confusing maze of who regulates what.



# Compliance...

- is NOT Voluntary...
- 'Compliance' is a term used for both JCAHO and other regulatory requirements -- JCAHO is typically reliant on other regulatory statutes for its elements of performance.
- BUT JCAHO Surveyors are not expected to be defacto inspectors for other regulatory agencies, like EPA

- |                                      |         |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| • OSHA: Bloodborne Pathogens, HazCom | • EPCRA | • SPCC  |
| • RCRA                               | • CAA   | • DOT   |
|                                      | • CWA   | • HIPAA |

# JOINT COMMISSION vs. EPA (or other regulatory agencies)

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- How much money is spent in your organization preparing for JCAHO?
- Now, how much money is spent in your facility trying to meet EPA compliance obligations or developing pollution prevention programs?
- Now compare resource allocations...





# Two Birds with One Stone

- While preparing for Joint Commission... **incorporate** environmental requirements.
- Use JCAHO's emphasis on Environment of Care (EOC) and environmental requirements to leverage **resource support** for environmental compliance and pollution prevention programs.
- Use environmental programs as **performance improvement initiatives** for the Joint Commission.





# How does the JCAHO Guide Work?

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JCAHO standards address an organization's performance in key functional areas. Each standard is presented as a series of "Elements of Performance" (EP) -- expectations that establish the broad framework that JCAHO surveyors use to evaluate a facility's performance.

Many of the environmentally relevant Elements of Performance fall under the **Environment of Care** (EC) standard, but others are included in the **Human Resources** (HR) and **Leadership** (LD) standards.

The Guide relates each JCAHO Element of Performance to specific federal regulations, to help facilities be in compliance with both.

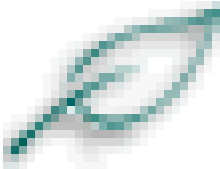


# Symbols in JCAHO Guide

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**= Compliance**



**= Environmental Improvement**



**= Tools and Resources**



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

*To improve compliance with JCAHO Environment of Care Standards*


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Please note: this page is under development. Contact [Laura Brannen](#), (603) 795-9966, if you have questions or suggestions.


[Introduction](#)   [Topic Locator](#)

### Table of Contents

- [Environment of Care Standards](#)
- [Human Resources Standards](#)
- [Leadership Standards](#)

JCAHO Standards	Elements of performance	JCAHO Full Text	
<b>Environment of Care Standards</b>			
EC 1.10 The organization manages safety risks.	EC 1.10.1 <a href="#">Written management plan for environmental safety</a>	1	1
	EC 1.10.2 <a href="#">Safety Coordinator</a>	2	2
EC 1.20 The organization maintains a safe environment.	EC 1.20.1, 4, 5 <a href="#">Environmental tours</a>	<a href="#">1, 4, 5</a>	<a href="#">1, 4, 5</a>

# Choose a Standard.

JCAHO Standards	Elements of performance	JCAHO Full Text	
<b>Environment of Care Standards</b>			
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	EC 1.10.2 <a href="#">Safety Coordinator</a>	2	2
EC 1.20 The organization maintains a safe environment.	EC 1.20.1, 4, 5 <a href="#">Environmental tours</a>	1, 4, 5	1, 4, 5
EC 2.10 The organization identifies and manages its security risks.	EC 2.10.1 <a href="#">Written management plan to effectively manage security risks</a>	1	1
	EC 2.10.6 <a href="#">Control of entrance and egress from security-sensitive areas</a>	6	6
EC 3.10 The organization manages hazardous materials and waste risks.	EC 3.10.1 <a href="#">Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan</a>	1	1
	EC 3.10.2 <a href="#">Hazardous Materials and Waste Inventory</a>	2	2
	EC 3.10.3 <a href="#">Implementation of Hazardous Materials and Waste Program</a>	3	3
	EC 3.10.4 <a href="#">Space &amp; Equipment for Handling of Hazardous Materials &amp; Waste</a>	4	4
	EC 3.10.5 <a href="#">Hazardous Gases and Vapors</a>	5	5
	EC 3.10.6 <a href="#">Procedures and Implementation for Emergency Response</a>	6	6
	EC 3.10.7 <a href="#">Documentation, Permits and Licenses</a>	7	7
	EC 3.10.8 <a href="#">Manifest Management</a>	8	8
	EC 3.10.9 <a href="#">Labeling of Hazardous Materials and Waste</a>	9	9
	EC 3.10.10 <a href="#">Hazardous Materials and Waste Storage</a>	10	10
<b>Human Resources Standards</b>			
HR 2.10 Staff members, students and volunteers are oriented to their jobs as appropriate and the work environment before providing care, treatment and services.	HR 2.10.1 <a href="#">Staff oriented to organization's mission and goals</a>	1	1
	HR 2.10.2 <a href="#">Staff oriented to organization's policies and procedures</a>	2	2
	HR 2.10.9 <a href="#">Organization assesses competency</a>	9	9
HR 2.20 Staff members, students and volunteers can describe or demonstrate their roles and responsibilities based on their job duties, relative to safety.	HR 2.20.1 <a href="#">Describe and demonstrate environment risks</a>	1	1
	HR 2.20.2 <a href="#">Demonstrate actions to eliminate and minimize risks</a>	2	2
	HR 2.20.3 <a href="#">Demonstrate procedures to follow in event of incident</a>	3	3
	HR 2.20.4 <a href="#">Knowledgeable regarding reporting processes</a>	4	4
<b>Leadership Standards</b>			
LD 1.30 The organization complies with applicable law and regulation.	LD 1.30.1 <a href="#">Services provided in accordance with rules</a>	1	1
	LD 1.30.2 <a href="#">Organization acts upon reports, recommendations as appropriate</a>	2	2



# Leadership Standard: Compliance Counts



Working Together  
to Create  
Healthy  
Communities!



[Hazardous Materials](#) [Regulated Medical Waste](#) [Waste Reduction](#) [Facilities & Equipment](#) [Regulations & Standards](#)

## *Guide to JCAHO Leadership Standard 1.30*

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[Checklist for 1.30.1 and 1.30.2](#)

**Leadership standard 1.30:** The organization complies with applicable law and regulation.

**Element of Performance 1:** *Services provided in accordance with rules*

**The organization provides all services in accordance with applicable licensure requirements, law, rules, and regulations.**

This page provides a set of criteria for evaluating how well a facility complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.

(See also Element of Performance 2, [below](#))



= Compliance



= Environmental Improvement




= Tools and Resources




# Joint Commission Standards and Elements of Performance

Home

 **HOSPITALS**  
for a  
HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT™

Working Together  
to Create  
Healthy  
Communities!

 **Healthcare**  
Environmental  
Resource  
Center

[Hazardous Materials](#) [Regulated Medical Waste](#) [Waste Reduction](#) [Facilities & Equipment](#) [Regulations & Standards](#)

## Guide to JCAHO Environment of Care Standard 3.10.3

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**Environment of Care Standard 3.10:** The organization manages hazardous materials and waste risks


**Element of Performance 3. Implementation of Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste Program**


The organization establishes and implements processes for selecting, handling, storing, transporting, using and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes from receipt or generation through use and/or final disposal, including managing the following: chemicals, chemotherapeutic materials, pharmaceuticals, radioactive materials and infectious and regulated medical waste including sharps.

This page provides a set of criteria for evaluating how well a facility has implemented its procedures for managing hazardous materials and waste. The criteria have been grouped into categories covering:

- general management topics (procuring, handling, and disposing of various classes of waste)
- specific materials and wastes of concern
- facilities and equipment

 - Compliance

 - Environmental Improvement

 - Tools and Resources







Categories:

- [Hazardous Materials Management](#)
  - [Materials of Concern](#)
    - [Asbestos](#)

# Compliance Language

## Hazardous Waste

Facility has plans on file, readily accessible by appropriate staff, for:  
**Hazardous waste management**

-  -- annually determining hazardous waste generator status.  
*[Hazardous waste definition: 40 CFR 261.3](#)*  
*[Standards for CESQGs 40: CFR 261.5](#)*  
*[Hazardous waste \(standards for generators, index page\): 40 CFR 262](#)*
-  -- working toward smaller quantity generator status by minimizing hazardous materials and waste.
-  -- making hazardous waste determinations by applying knowledge or testing.  
*[Implementation: EC3.10.3](#)*      *[Hazardous waste definition: 40 CFR 261.3](#)*  
*[Documentation: EC3.10.7](#)*      *[Standards for CESQGs: 40 CFR 261.5](#)*
-  -- managing hazardous waste, including tracking, storing, inspecting, recycling, treating, and disposing.  
*[Hazardous waste \(standards for generators, index page\): 40 CFR 262](#)*
-  -- eliminating mercury.
  -  • *[Hospitals for a Healthy Environment \(H2E\): Mercury Virtual Elimination Plan](#)*

# Pollution Prevention Language









# Understand the Links

## Hazardous Waste

Facility has plans on file, readily accessible by appropriate staff, for:

### Hazardous waste management

-  -- annually determining hazardous waste generator status.
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  - [Standards for CESQGs 40: CFR 261.5](#)
  - [Hazardous waste \(standards for generators, index page\): 40 CFR 262](#)
-  -- working toward smaller quantity generator status by minimizing hazardous materials and waste.
-  -- making hazardous waste determinations by applying knowledge or testing.
  - [Implementation: EC3.10.8](#)
  - [Documentation: EC3.10.7](#)
  - [Hazardous waste definition: 40 CFR 261.3](#)
  - [Standards for CESQGs: 40 CFR 261.5](#)
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  - [Hazardous waste \(standards for generators, index page\): 40 CFR 262](#)
-  -- eliminating mercury.
  -  • [Hospitals for a Healthy Environment \(H2E\): Mercury Virtual Elimination Plan](#)

Click on blue link: EPA Reference

[Code of Federal Regulations]  
[Title 40, Volume 24]  
[Revised as of July 1, 2004]  
From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access  
[CITE: 40CFR261.3]

[Page 33-38]

TITLE 40--PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER I--ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (CONTINUED)

PART 261 IDENTIFICATION AND LISTING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE--Table of Contents

Subpart A\_General

Sec. 261.3 Definition of hazardous waste.

(a) A solid waste, as defined in Sec. 261.2, is a hazardous waste if:

(1) It is not excluded from regulation as a hazardous waste under Sec. 261.4(b); and

(2) It meets any of the following criteria:

(i) It exhibits any of the characteristics of hazardous waste identified in subpart C of this part. However, any mixture of a waste from the extraction, beneficiation, and processing of ores and minerals excluded under Sec. 261.4(b) (7) and any other solid waste

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exhibiting a characteristic of hazardous waste under subpart C is a hazardous waste only if it exhibits a characteristic that would not have been exhibited by the excluded waste alone if such mixture had not occurred, or if it continues to exhibit any of the characteristics exhibited by the non-excluded wastes prior to mixture. Further, for the purposes of applying the Toxicity Characteristic to such mixtures, the

**Takes you  
straight  
to CFR  
citation for  
that  
requirement!**

# Understand the Links

## Recordkeeping and reporting



The facility has obtained an EPA Identification Number.

[HERC: Managing Hazardous \(RCRA\) Wastes \(EPA ID\)](#)  
[EPA ID number: 40 CFR 262.12](#)



Generator status is determined and reviewed monthly.

[HERC: Managing Hazardous \(RCRA\) Wastes \(Generator status\)](#)  
*Determining generator status is an implicit requirement for compliance with  
Hazardous waste accumulation time: 40 CFR 262.34  
Reporting for SQGs: 40 CFR 262.44, and other regulations.*



Facility is working toward moving to smaller quantity generator status by minimizing hazardous materials present on site.



- H2E's [Chemical Minimization Plan](#) has department-specific hazardous chemical minimization tips.

**Click on teal link: HERC Reference**

## Generator Status

In order to regulate the over 800,000 hazardous waste generators in the United States cost effectively, EPA in 1985 established three types of generators:

**Conditionally-Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CE-SQG)** who generate less than 100 kg of non-acute hazardous waste a month, less than 1 kg of acute hazardous waste a month (e.g. p-listed wastes such as epinephrine) and less than 100 kg of residues or contaminated soil, waste, and other debris from the spill cleanup of acute hazardous waste;

**Small Quantity Generators (SQG)** who generate between 100 kg and 1000 kg of non-acute hazardous waste a month, less than 1 kg of acute hazardous waste a month, and less than 100 kg of spill residue from acute hazardous waste; and

**Large Quantity Generators (LQG)** who generate 1000 kg or more of non-acute hazardous waste a month, 1 kg or more of acute hazardous waste a month, and 100 kg or more of spill residue from acute hazardous waste.

A CE-SQG is exempt from the regulation as long as it complies with the set of regulations described in Section 261.5. Hence the name **conditionally-exempt** small quantity generator. An SQG must meet limited requirements in Part 262. These reduced requirements for SQGs are to ensure that while some tracking of and accountability for the waste is placed on the small quantity generator, the requirements are not so burdensome as to prevent compliance. An LQG, of course, must meet the full set of Part 262 requirements.









Refers directly to other areas of the HERC website

# Understand the Links

## Hazardous Waste

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  - [Hazardous waste \(standards for generators, index page\): 40 CFR 262](#)
-  -- eliminating mercury.
-  • [Hospitals for a Healthy Environment \(H2E\): Mercury Virtual Elimination Plan](#)

Click the green link: JCAHO Reference

# The Green Links

- The Joint Commission divides the universe in one way (with a focus on patient safety); RCRA divides it another way (with a focus on managing hazardous waste).
- Some RCRA compliance bullets relate to several JCAHO EPs, so they are repeated (with minor variations).
- The green links take you to similar bullets in other JCAHO EPs, so you can compare similar compliance items in different contexts.







# Other tools for JCAHO

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- Write up Environmental Programs as Performance Improvement Initiatives
- H2E has sample write-ups for Performance Improvement Initiatives on:
  - Regulated Medical Waste Reduction
  - Mercury Elimination
  - Glutaraldehyde Elimination
- Willing to help develop more!!





# Give us Feedback on the Guide!

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- Still a draft.
- Is it useful?
- Is it confusing?
- Suggestions for additional tools and resources?