



An Inspector For Some Government Agency is Standing At My Door, Now What Do I Do?

In the last few days (all in this week): I have;

- had a meeting with the Indiana Department of Environment Management over a compliance disagreement,
- had a report that an inspector for the state environmental compliance office visited one of our sites over a neighbors complaint,
- had a report that OSHA was on one of our jobsites to monitor dust control,
- and attended a meeting presented by an industry group covering changes to water regulations that will eventually affect everyone of our places of business.

I thought maybe you would be interested in knowing how I spend my time! And it is a good lead-in to this month's topic. Much of what is covered here comes from the July 2003 *Aggregates Manager* magazine in an article by **Henry Chajet**, a partner in the Washington, D.C. Law Firm *Patton Boggs LLP*. It is not totally safety related, but it can play an important role in the overall safety attitude of an individual location, an area of responsibility, and even the entire imi family.

First impressions count! Are you ready for that government visitor? Whether it is a safety inspector, an environmental inspector, or an accident investigator. When they arrive the overall appearance of the site, the professionalism of the people, and availability of documentation, quickly says: these are good guys or these are bad guys, and will probably effect the severity of enforcement actions, if that results.

Before the inspector arrives, they most likely have already reviewed the location's history. Such things as permits, prior inspections, prior violations, etc. are public records and you can be sure that the inspector (if they are doing their job) has already reviewed this mate-

rial. They will know our (imi's) history on prior settlements and agreements.

Does your site entrance and the approach to the office show a commitment to safety and environmental protection? Does that first view of your site say, "*We Are Proud of Our Work*"? Are appropriate warnings posted such as "No Trespassing", "Visitors Must Report to the Office", "Hardhat Area", or other signs indicating a concern for the public and the environment? Is there a cloud of dust hanging over the site? Does the inspector have to avoid a mud puddle on his way in? Every site can show commitment, pride, accomplishment, and knowledge.

About the first thing involved when the inspector walks through the door is the **opening conference**. The message should be one of welcome, cooperation, and professionalism, but caution is also required. Check the credentials of the inspector to determine their authenticity. Ask why they are there. Contact your Manager and request their presence ASAP. Inform the Inspector of **imi's Policy** on inspections:

It is the policy of Irving Materials, Inc., etal, that a member of the management team is present and accompanies any inspector during all phases of any inspection. The management representative must be present for all conferences and inspections and prior to any interviews. Unless other instructions are provided by management.

It may take some time for the management representative to arrive, so use the time wisely to provide appropriate documentation. Each site manager should know the location of such documents as OSHA logs, Company Policies, Spill Plans, Water Permits, Air Permits, Training Records, etc. Unless the inspector identifies a violation upon entry, your normal course of business can and should continue. I hope no one is ashamed if what is happening at their plant. Also, control the location where the inspector is to wait. Do not allow the inspector to wander around, this is a safety issue and Company Policy.

Many first impressions form the basis for investigators opinions and help determine the severity of the enforcement actions. Don't wait for an incident to prepare because it might be too late to make a difference in the outcome. Advance preparation is essential!

Inside this issue:

I'm From the Government and I'm Here to Help You!

For What it is Worth!

For What it is Worth!

How Women View That Computers are Like Men:

- In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
- They're supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem.
- They have a lot of stored data, but are still clueless.
- As soon as you commit to one you realize that, if you had waited you could have had a better model.
- They hear what you say, but not what you mean.

How Men View That Computers Are Like Women :

- No one but the Creator understands their logic.
- The language they use to communicate with one another is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for later retrieval.
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.
- You do the same thing for years, and suddenly it is wrong!

