

## EPA's Healthcare Compliance Initiative and Your Choices

The EPA's new initiative is to step up enforcement at health care facilities due to concerns about possible environmental violations. Hospitals are being asked to verify compliance in areas such as laboratories, power plants, waste storage areas, and vehicle maintenance facilities, to name a few. In response, leading health care institutions are starting to acknowledge the importance of environmental stewardship in the provision of health care services.

### **Yale-New Haven Hospital (CT) Signs Up**

Most recently, in December 2004, Yale-New Haven Hospital agreed to undertake a voluntary comprehensive environmental self-audit. Signed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the agreement is the first of its kind in the New England Region and is part of a larger effort launched last spring by EPA's New England office to foster increased compliance with environmental laws by New England hospitals. "Yale-New Haven Hospital should be applauded for embracing a proactive approach to complying with environmental laws," said Robert W. Varney, USEPA New England Regional Administrator in a press release. "The Agency looks forward to working with Yale-New Haven and other New England hospitals as we embrace this innovative means to achieving compliance."

### **Other Regional Developments**

Recently, fourteen members of the Rochester, NY Regional Healthcare/Joint Ventures Corporation signed agreements with EPA to conduct comprehensive environmental audits of all of their buildings and facilities. This number represents almost 70% of the hospitals in the greater Rochester region. For participants who evaluate compliance and report and rectify violations, EPA has agreed to waive penalties

normally based on the magnitude of the violations.

### **Are You Ready To Perform Your Own Self-Audit?**

Is it time for your hospital to undertake EPA's voluntary, comprehensive environmental self-audit? Are you ready to embrace this innovative means to achieving compliance? If so, we can help.

We have completed over 40 successful projects in hospitals in New England. Assistance includes both environmental and OSHA audits, JCAHO applications, mold and indoor air quality evaluations, asbestos and lead surveys, and remediation. With our advice, hospitals have not only made practical, cost-saving improvements in reducing waste generation, but have also prepared specific compliance plans for environmental and energy management. For example, such plans apply to hospitals that house elevators (hydraulic oil); photography, radiology, and other laboratories (hazardous waste); oil storage; and boilers (air emissions).

Environmental Compliance Services, Inc. (ECS) provides a full complement of in-house Professional Engineers, Certified Industrial Hygienists, and Certified Environmental Trainers needed to stamp plans and conduct training. Our staff includes former hospital administrators and facilities engineers who intimately understand the hospital culture and work environment. Our assistance is completely confidential.

**To get started, call (800) 789-3530 or visit [www.ecsconsult.com](http://www.ecsconsult.com).**

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