

3. Misrepresentation or the use of fraud in obtaining certification or performing underground storage tank services; or

4. Failure to attend a Department approved course on the regulations as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14B-13.4(d).

(b) Within 30 calendar days after receipt of notification of the Department's intent to suspend, revoke, deny or refuse to renew a certification, the applicant or certificate holder may request an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14B-12.2.

(c) The Department may order the certificate holder to cease operations pending the outcome of the adjudicatory hearing if the Department has reason to believe that a condition exists that poses an imminent threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

(d) Suspension, revocation, denial, or refusal to renew a certification shall not bar the Department from pursuing any other lawful remedy available to the Department against the applicant or certificate holder.

(e) Any business firm or person whose certification is revoked shall be ineligible to apply for certification for three years from the date of the revocation. Reapplication shall be for initial certification as per this subchapter.

SUBCHAPTER 14. CONFIDENTIALITY

7:14B-14.1 Scope and exchange of information

(a) This subchapter sets forth the procedures for making information received by the Department in administering the Underground Storage Tank program under N.J.A.C. 7:14B-1 available to the public and maintaining confidentiality of certain parts of that information.

(b) All information collected by or originated by the Department in connection with underground storage tank regulatory activities under N.J.A.C. 7:14B shall be generally available to the public except as provided otherwise in this subchapter.

(c) Claims for confidentiality will be decided by the Department in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

(d) If a request for information is made for interagency or intra-agency memoranda or letters, the Department may deny this request if such request is exempted from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).

(e) If a request for information is made for investigatory records, the Department may deny the request if such

request is exempted from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7) or N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3.

(f) When USEPA supplies information to the Department which was submitted to USEPA under a claim of confidentiality, the information shall be subject to the conditions set forth in 40 CFR Part 2 and this subchapter. If the Department obtains information from USEPA that is not claimed to be confidential, the Department may make that information available to the public without further notice to any interested party.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, any information obtained or used in the administration of the underground storage tank program shall be available to EPA and U.S. Department of Justice upon request without restriction. If the information has been submitted to the Department under a claim of confidentiality, the Department shall submit that claim to EPA when providing information as required in this section.

(h) Access to any information for which a confidentiality claim has been made will be limited to Department employees, representative and contractors, whose activities necessitate such access. Also USEPA employees may have access to confidential information subject to (f) above.

(i) No disclosure of information for which a confidentiality claim has been asserted shall be made to any other persons except as provided in this subchapter.

(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the incorporation of confidential information into accumulations of data subject to disclosure as public records, provided that such disclosure is not in a form that would foreseeably allow persons, not otherwise having knowledge of such confidential information, to deduce from it the confidential information or the identity of the person who supplied it to the Department.

7:14B-14.2 Confidential claims

(a) Any owner or operator of an underground storage tank system required to submit any information pursuant to the Act or this chapter which in the owner's or operator's opinion constitutes trade secrets, proprietary information, or information related to national security, may assert a confidentiality claim by following the procedures set forth in this subchapter.

(b) Any owner or operator submitting any information to the Department and asserting a confidentiality claim covering any information contained therein shall submit two documents to the Department. One document shall contain all the information required by the Act or this chapter including any information which the owner or operator alleges to be entitled to confidential treatment. The second document shall be identical to the first except that it shall contain no information which the owner or operator alleges to be entitled to confidential treatment. The second docu-

ment can be a photocopy of the first, with the allegedly confidential material blacked out.

(c) The top of each page of the first document containing the information which the owner or operator alleges to be entitled to confidential treatment shall display the heading "CONFIDENTIAL" in bold type, or stamp.

(d) All parts of the text of the first document which the owner or operator alleges to be entitled to confidential treatment shall be underscored or highlighted in a clearly identifiable manner. This manner of marking confidential information shall be such that both the allegedly confidential information and the underscoring or highlighting is reproducible on photocopying machines.

(e) The first document, containing the information which the owner or operator alleges to be entitled to confidential treatment, shall be sealed in an envelope which shall display the word "CONFIDENTIAL" in bold type or stamp on both sides. This envelope, together with the second, non-confidential document (which may or may not be enclosed in a separate envelope, at the option of the owner or operator), shall be enclosed in another envelope for transmittal to the Department. The outer envelope shall bear no marking indicating the confidential nature of contents.

(f) To ensure proper delivery, the complete package should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by other means which will allow verification of receipt. Ordinary mail may be used, but the Department will assume no responsibility for packages until they are actually received at the address provided in N.J.A.C. 7:14B-2.2(b).

(g) The request for confidentiality shall be accompanied by the applicable fee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14B-3.7.

Amended by R.1997 d.487, effective November 17, 1997.
See: 29 N.J.R. 1593(a), 29 N.J.R. 4866(a).
Added (g).

7:14B-14.3 Disclosure of confidential information to contractors

(a) The Department may disclose confidential information to a contractor of the Department when the contractor's activities necessitate such access.

(b) No information may be disclosed to a contractor unless the contract in question provides that the contractor and the contractor's employees, agents and representatives use the information only for the purpose of carrying out the work required by the contract, not disclose the information to anyone not authorized in writing by the Department, store the information in locked cabinets in secure rooms, and return the information to the Department whenever the information is no longer required by the contractor for the performance of the work required by the contract.

(c) Disclosure in violation of this subchapter or the contractual provisions described in (b) above shall constitute grounds for debarment or suspension as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:1-5 Debarment, Suspension and Disqualification from Department Contracting, in addition to whatever other remedies may be available to the Department at equity or law.

7:14B-14.4 Confidentiality determinations

(a) Information for which a confidentiality claim has been asserted will be treated by the Department as entitled to confidential treatment, unless the Department determines that the information is not entitled to confidential treatment as provided for in this subchapter.

(b) The Department shall act upon a confidentiality claim and determine whether information is or is not entitled to confidential treatment whenever the Department:

1. Receives a request under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. to inspect or copy such information;
2. Desires to determine whether information in its possession is entitled to confidential treatment; or
3. Desires for any reason in the public interest to disclose the information to persons not authorized by this subchapter to have access to confidential information.

(c) The Department shall make the initial determination whether information is or is not entitled to confidential treatment.

1. If the Department determines that information is not entitled to confidential treatment, it shall so notify the owner or operator who submitted the information.
2. The notice required under this subsection shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested and shall state the reasons for the Department's initial determination.
3. An owner or operator who wishes to contest a determination by the Department shall, within 30 days of notification of the determination, submit evidence to support the owner's or operator's contention that the Department's initial determination was incorrect. The evidence may include, but need not be limited to, a statement indicating:
 - i. The period of time for which confidential treatment is desired by the owner or operator (for example, until a certain date, until the occurrence of a specified event, or permanently);
 - ii. The measures taken by the owner or operator to guard against undesired disclosure of the information to others;
 - iii. The extent to which the information has been disclosed to others, and the precautions taken in connection therewith; and