Purchasing an Existing Business?

Do your homework and know what you’re buying. Many environmental laws hold current landowners responsible for all environmental contamination of a property—even if due to the activities of previous owners.

Consider:
- What is the environmental history of the existing business? Has it been cited for non-compliance?
- Why is the owner selling? Are there new or more stringent environmental regulatory requirements impacting the business now or in the foreseeable future?
- What is the current environmental status of the property and buildings? Is there high potential for contamination?
- If purchasing or renovating buildings, have you surveyed for asbestos or lead paint?
- Are there, or have there ever been, any above ground or underground storage tanks for oil, fuels, or chemicals on the property?
- Are you aware of Pennsylvania’s land recycling program for contaminated properties?

How can EMAP help?

EMAP provides free and confidential environmental compliance assistance to small businesses in Pennsylvania.

EMAP assists small businesses with:
- One-on-one consultation to help you understand the regulatory requirements at your business
- Calculating emissions from all sources
- Conducting on-site assessments
- Assisting with the preparation and submittal of requests for determinations, permit applications and plans
- Explaining permit requirements and setting up customized record keeping and reporting systems
- Finding alternative materials and processes to help reduce your regulatory burden

Toll Free Hotline – 877.ask.EMAP
www.askemap.org
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3. Duquesne University SBDC
412-396-5533
www.sbdcsduq.edu
4. Gannon University SBDC
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www.sbdcgannon.org
5. Indiana University of Pennsylvania SBDC
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www.iup.edu/business/sbdc
6. Kutztown University SBDC
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7. Lehigh University SBDC
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14. University of Pittsburgh SBDC
412-648-1542
www.sbdcpitt.edu
15. University of Scranton SBDC
570-941-7588
www.scrantonsbdc.com
16. Wharton (University of Pennsylvania) SBDC
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www.whartonsbdc.wharton.upenn.edu
17. Widener University SBDC
610-819-8490
www.widenersbdc.org
18. Wilkes University SBDC
570-408-4340
www.wilkes.edu/sbdc

Environmental Checklist for Small Manufacturers

For Small Businesses
Renewable Energy
Environmental Checklist for Small Manufacturers

Do you make or plan to make something?

If so, environmental regulations will very likely apply to your small manufacturing business.

EMAP can help you identify and address any environmental issues whether you are an existing business, just starting up a new business, or expanding current operations.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but it is a starting point to help you begin your business on the right track. Since requirements vary by location and business activity, you should seek additional assistance during the planning process.

Disclaimer: The information in this brochure is provided as general information and is not provided nor intended to act as a substitute for legal advice or other professional services.

Air Emissions

- Are there or will there be air emissions from stacks and/or vents or other uncontrolled emissions?
- Have you calculated your current or potential emissions?
- If you are expanding your operation, have you looked at whether you will exceed your current permit limits and may need to amend or apply for a new permit?
- Have you checked whether you need to register your boilers, generators or other fuel consumption equipment?
- Will odors be emitted from the activities conducted in your building?

Water

- Is drinking water provided for customers and employees from a well?
- Is wastewater discharged to the sanitary sewer or other waterways?
- Does wastewater need to be pre-treated prior to discharge?
- Is a discharge permit required?
- Do you have industrial activity which is potentially exposed to storm water?

Wastes

- Will hazardous waste be generated? If yes, will you need an EPA Identification Number?
- Have you determined how much hazardous waste will be generated each month and determined your generator status?
- Will non-hazardous industrial wastes (residual waste) be generated or reused?
- Will wastes be stored on-site? Is there proper containment?
- How will wastes be transported for disposal?
- Are you aware of recycling requirements for certain items, such as fluorescent bulbs and electronic waste?

Storage Tanks

- Will there be storage tanks on-site that need to be registered?
- Are tank technical requirements satisfied? Do the tanks have a form of containment?

Hazardous Materials & Emergency Planning

- Will hazardous substances and/or bulk compressed gases be used, manufactured or held in storage?
- Is the local fire department/emergency planning commission aware of chemical and explosive hazards at your facility?
- Will you need a Risk Management Plan or other Emergency Response Plans?

Construction

- Do you have all your permits before you begin construction?
- Will soil erosion and sedimentation controls be in place during construction?
- Have you incorporated green building techniques into renovations and new construction?

Sustainability

- Have you considered incorporating efficient systems and equipment which use less energy and fewer raw materials?

Since requirements vary by location and business activity you should seek additional assistance. Contact the Pennsylvania SBDC Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) for help with the environmental issues that pertain to your business.

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