

Acknowledge Our Part



Means Knowing the Role of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

The MOE inspector's role is to assess whether companies, municipalities, organizations and farmers are complying with environmental laws and regulations. They have been granted powers by legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act in order to accomplish this task.

The Ministry of the Environment Officer may enter:

- any part of the natural environment where a contaminant may have caused an adverse effect
- a place that is regulated under environmental legislation or regulations
- any place where the officer believes a contaminant is being discharged to the natural environment
- any place where documents or records are being stored relating to requirements of the Act
- any place that has or should have approvals under the Act
- any place that a pollutant has spilled

During an inspection the officer may:

- make necessary excavations
- require something to be operated
- take samples
- conduct test or make measurements
- examine records
- take copies of documents
- take photographs and videos
- make inquiries of any person
- take documents as long as they provide a receipt for them and return them promptly



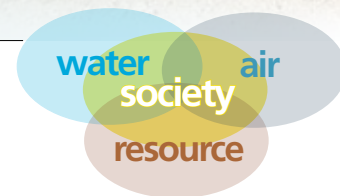
THE MESSAGE ▼

What to do if a Ministry Inspector arrives:

- be professional, polite and cooperative
- direct them to the site superintendent, foreman or manager
- find out who they are and the purpose of their visit



YOU MUST KNOW ▼



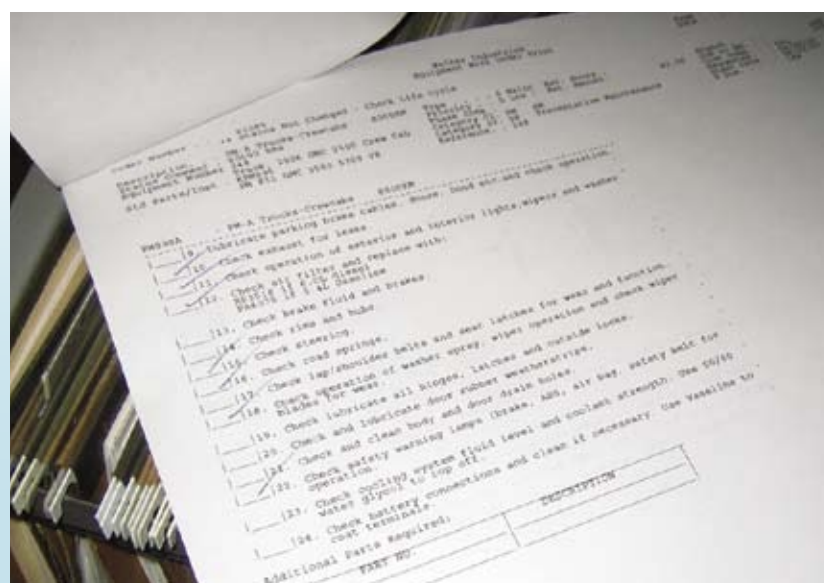
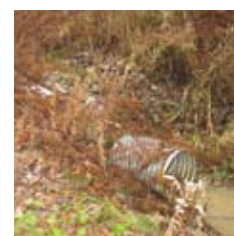
When asked a question:

- be honest
- listen to the question and ensure you understand what is being asked
- ask for clarification
- take your time in answering the question
- stay on topic and stick to the facts
- do not be afraid to say you don't know
- let the officer know you will find the answer and get back to them



When asked for information and reports:

- if they are readily available provide them
- if it would take time to gather the information, then work with the MOE to determine a reasonable schedule for providing the information



FOLLOW THROUGH ▼

After they leave:

- keep notes on the inspection
- if they have asked you to do something, prepare an action plan to address it
- notify your supervisor and the Environmental Performance Department of the results of the inspection



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. What experience have you had with MOE inspectors?
2. What aspects of your facility can an inspector enter?
3. What types of documents do you have on-site that an inspector would be interested in seeing?
4. What type of samples could the Ministry want to take at your facility?

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
Mahatma Gandhi

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