



Common Inspection Questions and Answers

Q: When will I be required to perform site inspections?

A: All of Northern Virginia is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed which has approved TMDL wasteload allocation, thus permittees will be required to inspect their sites either once every four business days or at least once every five business days and no later than 48 hours after a measurable rainfall event. Business day is defined as Monday thru Friday excluding state holidays.

Q: What is a measurable rain event?

A: The Construction General Permit Regulation defines a measurable storm event as a rainfall event producing 0.25 inches of rain over a 24 hour time period.

Q: What defines the 24 hour time period?

A: The 24-hour period could potentially be a number of different time frames (e.g., 12:00 am – 11:59 pm, 7:00 am – 6:59 am, 12:00 pm – 11:59 am, etc.). Regardless of the time frame chosen, it should be applied consistently over the life span of the construction activity (this is not "normal" hydrology rainfall event measurement).

Q: How do I (and/or local and state inspectors) determine if a site has had a rain fall event?

A: Permittees can either use an on-site conventional rain gauge, on-site automated rain gauge or utilize and off-site National Weather Service (or other entity) rain gauge that is representative of the construction activity location to determine whether they need to perform a rain event inspection.

Q: If my site receives 0.48 inches of rain over a 25 hour rain event and I am required to perform a rain event inspection?

A: It all depends on when the rain fell. If 0.24 inches of rain fell during the first 24 hours of the rain event and the remaining 0.24 inches of rain fell during the last hour of the event than technically you would not be required to perform a rain event inspection since the cumulative rain fall amount over a 24 hour period never exceeded 0.25 inches. However, if the cumulative rainfall total exceeded 0.25 inches over either of the 24 hour periods than a rainfall event inspection would be required.

Q: What inspection option does WSSI recommend?

A: In an effort to insure consistency, avoid the aggravation of dealing with rain gauges and limit inspection costs we are recommending that permittees inspect their sites every 4 business days. The 30 year average for annual 0.25"/ 24 hour rainfall events at Dulles Airport is 49.5 events. Inspecting every 4 business days would require fewer inspections than performing weekly and rain event inspections (61 inspections vs. 64 inspections).

