

459.604 Habitual violators — classification — penalties.

1. The department may impose a civil penalty upon a habitual violator which shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each day the violation continues. The increased penalty may be assessed for each violation committed subsequent to the violation which results in classifying the person as a habitual violator. A person shall be classified as a habitual violator if the person has committed three or more violations as described in this subsection. To be considered a violation that is applicable to a habitual violator determination, a violation must have been committed on or after January 1, 1995. In addition, each violation must have been referred to the attorney general for legal action under this chapter, and each violation must be subject to the assessment of a civil penalty or a court conviction, in the five years prior to the date of the latest violation provided in this subsection, counting any violation committed by a confinement feeding operation in which the person holds a controlling interest. A person shall be removed from the classification of habitual violator on the date on which the person and all confinement feeding operations in which the person holds a controlling interest have committed less than three violations described in this subsection for the prior five years. For purposes of counting violations, a continuing and uninterrupted violation shall be considered as one violation. Different types of violations shall be counted as separate violations regardless of whether the violations were committed during the same period. A violation must relate to one of the following:

a. The construction or operation of a confinement feeding operation structure, or the installation or use of a related pollution control device or practice, for which the person must obtain a permit, in violation of this chapter, or rules adopted by the department, including the terms or conditions of the permit.

b. Intentionally making a false statement or misrepresenting information to the department as part of an application for a construction permit for a confinement feeding operation structure, or the installation of a related pollution control device or practice for which the person must obtain a construction permit.

c. Failing to obtain a permit or approval by the department in violation of this chapter or departmental rule which requires a permit to construct or operate a confinement feeding operation or use a confinement feeding operation structure, anaerobic lagoon, or a pollution control device or practice which is part of a confinement feeding operation.

d. Operating a confinement feeding operation, including a confinement feeding operation structure, or a related pollution control device or practice, which causes pollution to the waters of the state, if the pollution was caused intentionally, or caused by a failure to take measures required to abate the pollution which resulted from an act of God.

e. Failing to submit a manure management plan as required pursuant to section 459.312, or operating a confinement feeding operation without having a manure management plan approved by the department.

This subsection shall not apply unless the department has previously notified the person of the person's classification as a habitual violator. The department shall notify persons classified as habitual violators of their classification, additional restrictions imposed upon the persons pursuant to their classification, and special civil penalties that may be imposed upon the persons. The notice shall be sent to the persons by certified mail.

2. Moneys assessed and collected in civil penalties and interest earned on civil penalties, arising out of a violation involving an animal feeding operation, shall be deposited in the animal agriculture compliance fund as created in section 459.401.

2002 Acts, ch 1137, §26, 67, 68, 71; 2002 Acts, 2nd Ex, ch 1003, §260, 262; 2003 Acts, ch 108, §87