

641—42.23(136C) Procedures for demand for information, notice of proposed action, and orders for penalties, suspensions, revocations, and civil penalties for all individuals under this chapter. These actions may be imposed on any permit holder who violates any rule in this chapter.

42.23(1) Demand for information.

a. The department may issue a demand for information for the purpose of determining whether any further action shall be taken. The demand shall state the alleged violations and allow the individual 20 days from the date of the letter to file a written answer with the department.

b. The individual must file a written answer to the department. The answer shall specifically admit or deny each allegation or charge made in the demand for information and provide fact and law on which the answer relies, set forth reasons why the demand should not have been issued, and if the requested information is not provided, the reasons why it is not provided.

c. Upon review of the answer, the department may institute the next level of proceeding or consider the matter closed. If no answer is filed, the department shall institute the notice of proposed action.

42.23(2) Procedures for enforcement actions.

a. *Notice of proposed action.*

(1) In response to an alleged violation of any provision of the Iowa Code, these rules, or any order issued by the department, the department may issue a written notice of proposed action. The notice of proposed action shall concisely state the alleged violation(s), the action the department is proposing, the time period in which a written response must be received, and the process for requesting a hearing.

(2) A written response must state any facts, explanations, or arguments denying the violations or must demonstrate any extenuating circumstances, error in the notice, or other reason why the proposed action should not be imposed. Responses may also request remission or mitigation of any penalty.

(3) If a request for a hearing is received within the allotted time period, the proposed action shall be suspended pending the outcome of the hearing. Prior to or at the hearing, the department may rescind the notice of proposed action upon satisfaction that the reason for the proposed action has been resolved.

(4) If no answer is filed, the department shall institute the order.

b. *Order.* An order may be issued upon response to the notice of proposed action or if no answer to the notice has been filed. The order may institute a proceeding to impose a penalty or suspend, revoke, or place on probation the individual's permit, or issue a civil penalty. An order shall concisely state the violation(s), the action the department has imposed, the effective date of the order, the time period for written response to be received by the department, and the process for requesting a hearing. If there has been consent in writing to the notice of proposed action, no written response to the order is necessary.

(1) If a request for a hearing is received within the allotted time period, the proposed action of the order shall be suspended pending the outcome of the hearing. Prior to or at the hearing, the department may rescind the order upon satisfaction that the reason for the proposed action has been resolved.

(2) If no answer is filed, the department shall institute the order. A consent to the order shall constitute a waiver to a hearing, findings of fact and conclusions of law, and of all right to seek department and judicial review or to contest the validity of the order in any form as to those matters which have been consented to or agreed to or on which a hearing has not been requested. An order that has been consented to shall have the same force and effect as an order made after hearing by a presiding officer or the department and shall be effective as provided in the order. Failure to comply with an order either consented to or validated by a hearing officer shall result in further enforcement action.

c. *Civil penalty.* Before instituting any proceeding to impose a civil penalty, the department shall serve written notice of violation upon the individual charged. This notice shall be included in the notice of proposed action or order issued. The notice of proposed action or order shall specify the amount of each proposed penalty for each alleged violation. The notice or order shall state that the amount charged may be paid as specified or protested in its entirety or in part. Upon final action of a civil penalty, payment must be made within the specified time stated in the order or the department may refer the matter to the attorney general for collection.

d. *Settlement and compromise.* At any time after the issuance of a notice or order designating the time and place of hearing in response to an order, the department and the regulated individual may enter into a stipulation for a settlement or compromise of the notice or order. The stipulation of compromise shall

be subject to approval by the designated presiding officer or, if none has been designated, by the chief administrative law judge. The presiding officer or chief administrative law judge may order such adjudication of the issued notice or order as deemed to be required in the public interest to dispose of the proceeding. If approved, the terms of the settlement or compromise shall be embodied in a decision or order settling and discontinuing the proceeding.

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