

875—3.5 (88) Conduct of inspections.

3.5(1) Inspections shall take place at the times and in the places of employment as the labor commissioner or the commissioner's designee may direct. At the beginning of an inspection, compliance safety and health officers shall present their credentials to the owner, operator or agent in charge at the establishment; explain the nature and purpose of the inspection; and indicate generally the scope of the inspection and the records they wish to review. However, such designation of records shall not preclude access to additional records.

3.5(2) Compliance safety and health officers shall have authority to take environmental samples and to take or obtain photographs related to the purpose of the inspection, employ other reasonable investigative techniques, and question privately any employer, owner, operator, agent or employee of the establishment. As used herein the term "employ other reasonable investigative techniques" includes, but is not limited to, the use of cameras, audio and videotaping equipment, devices to measure employee exposures and the attachment of personal sampling equipment such as dosimeters, pumps, badges and other similar devices to employees in order to monitor their exposures.

3.5(3) In taking photographs and samples, compliance safety and health officers shall take reasonable precautions to ensure that such actions with flash, spark-producing or other equipment would not be hazardous. Compliance safety and health officers shall comply with all employer safety and health rules and practices at the establishment being inspected, and they shall wear and use appropriate protective clothing and equipment.

3.5(4) The conduct of inspections shall be such as to preclude unreasonable disruption of the operations of the employer's establishment.

3.5(5) At the conclusion of the inspection, the compliance safety and health officer shall confer with the employer or representative and informally advise the employer or representative of any apparent safety or health violations disclosed by the inspection. During the conference, the employer shall be afforded an opportunity to bring to the attention of the compliance safety and health officer any pertinent information regarding conditions in the workplace.

3.5(6) Inspections shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 88.6(1).