

875—3.2(88) Objection to inspection.

3.2(1) Upon a refusal to permit a compliance safety and health officer, in the exercise of official duties, to enter without delay and at reasonable times any place of employment or any place therein, to inspect, to review records or to question any employer, owner, operator, agent or employee, or to permit a representative of employees to accompany the compliance safety and health officer during the physical inspection of any workplace, the compliance safety and health officer shall terminate the inspection or confine the inspection to other areas, conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment, materials, records or interviews concerning which no objection is raised. The compliance safety and health officer shall endeavor to ascertain the reason for such refusal and shall immediately report the refusal and the reason therefor to the labor commissioner or the commissioner's designee. The labor commissioner shall promptly take appropriate action, including compulsory process, if necessary.

3.2(2) Compulsory process shall be sought in advance of an attempted inspection or investigation if, in the judgment of the labor commissioner or a designee, circumstances exist which make such preinspection process desirable or necessary. Some examples of circumstances in which it may be desirable or necessary to seek compulsory process in advance of an attempt to inspect or investigate include (but are not limited to):

a. When the employer's past practice either implicitly or explicitly puts the commissioner on notice that a warrantless inspection will not be allowed, or

b. When an inspection includes the use of special equipment or when the presence of an expert or experts is needed in order to properly conduct the inspection, and procuring a warrant prior to an attempt to inspect would alleviate the difficulties or costs encountered in coordinating the availability of such equipment or expert.

3.2(3) For the purposes of this rule, the term "compulsory process" shall mean the institution of any appropriate action, including ex parte application for an inspection warrant or its equivalent. Ex parte inspection warrants shall be the preferred form of compulsory process in all circumstances where compulsory process is relied upon to seek entry to a workplace under this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 88.6(1).