

481—67.14(17A,231B,231C,231D,85GA,HF2365) Response to final report. Within 20 working days after the issuance of the final report and assessment of civil penalty, if any, the program shall respond in the following manner.

67.14(1) *If not contesting final report.* If the program does not desire to seek an informal conference or contest the final report and civil penalty, if assessed, the program shall remit to the department of inspections and appeals the amount of the civil penalty, if assessed. If a program has been assessed a civil penalty, the civil penalty shall be reduced by 35 percent if the requirements of subrule 67.17(5) are met.

67.14(2) *If contesting the final report.* If the program desires to contest the final report and civil penalty, if assessed, the program shall notify the department of inspections and appeals in writing that it desires to contest the final report and civil penalty and shall do one of the following:

- a. Request an informal conference with an independent reviewer pursuant to subrule 67.14(3); or
- b. Request a contested case hearing in the manner provided by Iowa Code chapter 17A for contested cases.

67.14(3) *Informal conference.*

a. *Request for informal conference.* The request for an informal conference must be in writing and include the following:

- (1) Identification of the regulatory insufficiency(ies) being disputed;
- (2) The type of informal conference requested: face-to-face or telephone conference; and
- (3) A request for monitor's notes for the regulatory insufficiencies being disputed, if desired.

b. *Submission of documentation.* The program shall submit the following within 10 working days from the date of the program's written request for an informal conference:

- (1) The names of those who will be attending the informal conference, including legal counsel; and
- (2) Documentation supporting the program's position. The program must highlight or use some other means to identify written information pertinent to the disputed regulatory insufficiency(ies). Supporting documentation that is not submitted with the request for an informal conference will not be considered, except as otherwise permitted by the independent reviewer upon good cause shown. "Good cause" means substantial or adequate grounds for failing to submit documentation in a timely manner. In determining whether the program has shown good cause, the independent reviewer shall consider what circumstances kept the program from submitting the supporting documentation within the required time frame.

c. *Face-to-face or telephone conference.* A face-to-face or telephone conference, if requested, will be scheduled to occur within 10 working days of the receipt of the written request, all supporting documentation and the plan of correction required by subrule 67.13(3).

- (1) Failure to submit supporting documentation will not delay scheduling.
- (2) The conference will be scheduled for one hour. The program will informally present information and explanation concerning the contested regulatory insufficiency(ies). The department will have time to respond to the program's presentation. Due to the confidential nature of the conference, attendance may be limited.

(3) If additional information is requested by the independent reviewer during the informal conference, the program will have 2 working days to deliver the additional materials to the independent reviewer.

(4) When extenuating circumstances preclude a face-to-face conference, a telephone conference will be held or the program may be given one opportunity to reschedule the face-to-face conference.

d. *Results.* The results of the informal conference will generally be sent within 10 working days after the date of the informal conference, or within 10 working days after the receipt of additional information, if requested.

(1) The independent reviewer may affirm or may modify or dismiss the regulatory insufficiency and civil penalty. The independent reviewer shall state in writing the specific reasons for the affirmation, modification or dismissal of the regulatory insufficiency.

(2) The department will issue an amended (changes in factual content) or corrected (changes in typographical/data errors) final report if changes result from the informal conference.

(3) The program must submit to the department a new plan of correction for the amended or corrected report within 10 calendar days from the date of the letter conveying the results of the conference.

(4) If the informal conference results in dismissal of a regulatory insufficiency for which a civil penalty was assessed, the corresponding civil penalty will be rescinded.

67.14(4) *Procedure after informal conference.* After the conclusion of an informal conference:

a. If the program does not desire to further contest an affirmed or modified final report, the program shall, within 5 working days after receipt of the written decision of the independent reviewer, remit to the department of inspections and appeals the civil penalty, if assessed.

b. If the program does desire to further contest an affirmed or modified final report, the program shall, within 5 working days after receipt of the written decision of the independent reviewer, notify the department of inspections and appeals in writing that it desires to formally contest the final report.

67.14(5) *Contested case hearings.* Contested case hearings shall be conducted by the department's administrative hearings division pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A and 481—Chapter 9.

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