

Top Five Most Common Noncompliances in Ten Inspection Categories



This summary has been developed in response to industry's request for timely and relevant information on compliance. It can be used by industry members to gain a better understanding of Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) requirements.

This summary focuses specifically on operational issues related to drilling, well servicing, oil and gas operations, pipelines, well sites, drilling waste, oilfield waste management facilities, and oil sands and coal mines.

January 1 – September 30, 2016

Drilling		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	11.1.4.2 – STICK diagram does not contain all the required information.	1
2)	1.7.2 – BOP certification has expired.	1
3)	6.4.2.1 – BOP/HCR function test not conducted.	1
4)	6.1.1 – Accumulator pressure dropped below 8400 KPA after function test.	1
5)	11.3.1.2 – Flow checks not recorded in the drilling logbook.	1

Gas Facility		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	3.2.5.5 – Facility not maintained in a clean condition.	116
2)	1.8.5.55 – Aboveground/underground tank(s) out of service and do not meet the requirements.	53
3)	1.1.5.30 – Meter not calibrated or calibration expired.	35
4)	1.6.5.10 – Improper identification sign.	32
5)	50.5.1 – Erosion on site not being controlled.	25

Pipeline		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	5.1.20.1 – Licensee is not able to demonstrate that procedures in the manuals have been implemented, or it is not operating and maintaining its pipeline systems in accordance with documented procedures.	101
2)	8.1.10.1 – Pipeline is not discontinued, abandoned, or returned to service after 12 months of no active flowing service.	92
3)	8.1.15.1 – Pipeline is not abandoned or discontinued in accordance with the requirements of <i>Directive 056</i> .	72
4)	5.5.5.1 – Internal corrosion mitigation records/procedure issues.	64
5)	5.6.95.1 – Cathodic protection records/procedure issues.	42

Well Site		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	3.2.5.5 – Well not maintained in a clean condition.	162
2)	4.1.5.8 – All wellhead valves are not chained and locked or valve handles not removed.	110
3)	1.6.5.5 – Conspicuous identification sign not posted at the primary entrance to the well or facility.	71
4)	1.7.5.68 – No or inadequate surface casing vent.	66
5)	4.1.5.13 – All outlets not bull plugged or blind flanged with needle valves.	62

Drilling Waste		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	2.2.3.1 – Drilling waste storage system is not secured to prevent public or wildlife from entering it.	3
2)	2.1.7.1 – Storage system not physically closed within 18 months of rig release of first well that contributed drilling waste.	2
3)	50.9.1 – Waste material, debris or garbage on site.	1
4)	50.8.1 – Brush/debris disposal not completed within two growing seasons.	1
5)	2.2.1.1 – Remote storage site does not have proper signage.	1

Oil Facility		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	3.2.5.5 – Facility not maintained in a clean condition.	128
2)	1.8.5.55 – Tanks out of service do not meet requirements.	67
3)	1.8.5.25 – Secondary containment not designed, constructed, sized, and maintained as required.	33
4)	1.6.5.5 – Conspicuous identification sign not posted at the primary entrance to the well or facility.	27
5)	1.6.5.10 – No or improper warning symbol adjacent to entrances.	26

Well Service		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	1.54.G1 – Hydraulic hoses inadequately fire sheathed.	3
2)	1.57.53 – Accumulator gauge inaccurate or unavailable.	1
3)	3.85.51 – Daily BOP mechanical tests not completed.	1
4)	50.12.1 – Compaction and/or admixing of soil due to rutting on site.	1
5)	51.2.5 – Erosion control.	1

Waste Facility		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	5.1.1.1 – Waste management approval operational requirements not met.	8
2)	3.1.2.1 – Odour emissions other than H ₂ S at an Oilfield Waste Management Facility.	5
3)	1.1.6.1 – Flared/vented gas not reported to the Petrinex.	4
4)	1.3.1.1 – Waste facility does not accurately record on Petrinex incoming and outgoing waste streams to ensure waste materials are accounted for and disposed of appropriately.	3
5)	3.4.3.1 – Surface water disposed to disposal well.	3

Oil Sands Mine		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	50.5.1 – Erosion on site not being controlled.	3
2)	61.1.1.1– No EPEA approval where required.	2
3)	50.4.1 – Weeds not actively being managed.	2
4)	75.1.2.1 – Dam or canal not operated and maintained properly.	2
5)	2.1.18.1 – Late notification of a reportable spill.	1

Coal Mine		Estimated Number of Occurrences
1)	61.12.1.1 – Contravention with EPEA approval conditions.	2
2)	59.1.1 – Contravention with PLA approval conditions.	2
3)	50.9.1 – Waste material, garbage or debris on site.	1
4)	50.5.1 – Erosion on site.	1
5)	61.9.4.1 – Monitoring wells not locked/protected/repared as required.	1