



Storm Water Oversight (Quality Assurance) Inspection & Follow-Up Procedures

Which projects should have QA inspections?

Previously per an EPA consent order, all projects that disturbed five acres or more and were located in an environmentally sensitive area required a QA inspection at least once every 120 days during active construction. After the consent order ended (back in 2019), continuing these inspections was discussed at a DCE meeting. The consensus was that the DCEs found value in QA inspections, and the goal was kept for QA inspections to be performed on projects disturbing 5 acres or more. To verify the amount of disturbed area, refer to a copy of your project's permit authorization.

Who should complete the QA inspections?

This will vary by District. However, individuals completing inspections should be properly certified (see question below).

This has varied per District or RCE, and individuals performing inspections have included District Construction level - Engineer Tech Seniors and RCE office level – Engineering Tech Seniors or Construction Tech Supervisors, inspectors from other projects (Construction Tech Senior or Construction Tech).

What type of training or certification is required?

Individuals completing QA inspections should be a certified Erosion Control Technician (ECT). Information on how to become a certified ECT:

<https://iowadot.gov/training/ttcp/RegBook/ECNew.pdf> . Completing the ESC Basics web-based training is not considered adequate.

How often should a QA inspection occur?

At least once every 120 calendar days during any period where there is active construction at a project.

Does the QA inspection need to be unannounced?

No. The intent of the inspection is not as a “gotcha”. The goal is to provide assistance with storm water permit compliance. It’s another set of eyes that can help us find items that need to be addressed or corrected. As such, it would be good to touch base with the inspector before and after. It’s not required for project inspection staff to join the inspection nor is it required for project inspection staff to be onsite. On the flip side, it is also okay if project inspection staff want to join the QA inspection. As QA inspections

are typically squeezed into other duties, it will likely depend on what works best for scheduling.

How long should QA inspections take?

This depends on the size of the project. The detail of QA inspection should be similar to the level of detail that would be performed by an EPA inspection.

What should a QA inspector review?

- Project site for deficiencies, including additional controls needed.
- Documentation, including inspection reports, training records, ECIP, and subcontractor co-permittee statements.

See Storm Water Oversight (Quality Assurance) Inspection fillable pdf form.

https://iowadot.gov/construction_materials/earthwork_erosion/QA_inspection_form.pdf

What should QA inspector do after an inspection?

The QA inspector should touch base with project inspection staff to let them know about findings or questions. QA inspectors are required to complete a QA inspection report and either the QA inspector or project staff shall upload the report to DocExpress. For projects let prior to July 2025, this would be uploaded to the Signature drawer. For projects starting with July 2025 letting, the Environment drawer would be used.

It is not the intent for QA inspector to follow-up with project staff or the contractor to ensure deficiencies are corrected outside of the QA inspections. It is also not the intent for the QA inspector to work with the contractor to submit missing documentation. That is the responsibility of inspection staff assigned to the project. The QA inspector should also not be instructing the contractor directly and should instead be communicating with project inspection staff.

What should project staff do after an inspection?

As noted above, the QA inspector should touch base with project inspection staff. There might be items of concern that wouldn't be considered deficiencies after the QA inspector receives more information.

Upon correction of deficiencies, project inspection staff should document the corrections on their next weekly storm water site inspection report. Additionally, if project inspection staff disagrees with a deficiency on the QA report, an explanation for why the items were not corrected shall be documented on project staff's next weekly storm site inspection report.