



Authorised Officers: powers and what to expect on site

Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)

On arrival

Authorised Officers will identify themselves and produce their Authorised Officer identification card, which includes the officer's name, photograph and authority. **Presentation of the card is sufficient to confirm identity and authority.**

Working together

Site personnel are expected to:

- provide access to relevant areas
- comply with lawful directions
- not obstruct or delay inspections.

A cooperative approach helps support safe, efficient and effective inspection outcomes.

Site access, safety and induction

Work health and safety (WHS) requirements will be respected. Authorised Officers will generally follow reasonable site safety requirements and use appropriate PPE.

To support safe and efficient inspections:

- short, relevant safety briefings may be appropriate
- sign-in systems may be used where they do not delay or restrict lawful entry.

However, when exercising statutory powers:

- lengthy or administrative processes are not required
- processes that delay, restrict or prevent lawful functions may constitute an offence under s.93 of the EP Act
- **the EP Act prevails where there is any inconsistency with site procedures.**

Authorised Officers are not subject to the direction or control of the premises operator when exercising statutory powers.

Authorised Officers **are not obliged to:**

- disclose personal information or provide personal identification (e.g. driver's licence)
- participate in drug or alcohol testing
- complete sign-in processes requiring unnecessary personal information.

Authorised Officer powers on site

Under the EP Act, Authorised Officers may:

- enter premises where authorised
- inspect activities, equipment and environmental conditions
- take samples (e.g. air, water, soil, waste)
- take photographs or recordings
- require documents, records, identifying details or other information
- ask questions and require answers relevant to an activity.

You must comply with lawful requirements. Failure to comply or to obstruct an Authorised Officer may constitute an offence under s.93 of the EP Act.

Personal information

Authorised Officers collect and use personal information in accordance with the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (PRIS Act) and the Department's [Privacy Collection Notice](#). Information is collected only where necessary and used for compliance and enforcement purposes or as authorised by law.

More information

Further information is available on the [Authorised Officers: powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and what to expect on site](#) webpage. If there are concerns about the conduct of an Authorised Officer, please visit the Department's [Feedback and complaints](#) page.