

**WAC 173-420-050 General provisions.** (1) Conformity review will include transportation plans, improvement programs, and projects on the regional transportation system. The review utilizes requirements from the federal Clean Air Act, the Washington Clean Air Act (chapter 70.94 RCW), the Growth Management Act (GMA) (chapter 36.70A RCW), the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (chapter 43.21C RCW), and the federal ISTEA (P.L. 102-240).

(2) Identification of transportation plans and improvement programs that affect nonattainment areas, identification of projects on the regional transportation system, and coordination and consistency among plans shall be accomplished through the planning processes required by the GMA and the ISTEA.

(3) Transportation plans and improvement programs on the regional transportation system within metropolitan area boundaries that contain nonattainment areas shall be coordinated through the MPO using the regional planning process required by ISTEA (P.L. 102-240).

(4) Transportation control measures shall be identified and incorporated into plans and programs through the SIP process required by the federal Clean Air Act.

(5) Early and continuous public participation shall be a component of the conformity process pursuant to requirements of the GMA (chapter 36.70A RCW) and ISTEA (P.L. 102-240). At least one public hearing shall be held on transportation plan and improvement program conformity determinations. Such hearings may be combined with general hearings required for the transportation plans or improvement programs. Public comment on project conformity shall be completed as part of the SEPA process (chapter 197-11 WAC).

(6) Disagreement over a conformity determination for a plan or program shall be presented in writing to the MPO and shall identify the changes considered necessary to achieve conformity. The MPO shall convene a meeting or meetings with the contesting party, parties of record, consulted agencies, and the state departments of ecology and transportation within fifteen working days of receipt of the written document contesting the determination. The meeting shall be to review the written reasons for contesting the determination. A written decision stating the changes, if any, in the conformity determination on the plan or program shall be provided to each of the meeting participants. The department of ecology or air pollution control authority may appeal the written decision, provided a written appeal to the governor is filed within fourteen calendar days of the written decision.

(7) Disagreements on project conformity findings shall be addressed through the SEPA process (chapter 197-11 WAC).

(8) If the classification or designation of a nonattainment or maintenance area changes, the next consultation meeting required under WAC 173-420-070 shall incorporate the criteria in the federal transportation conformity regulation (40 C.F.R. Part 93 Subpart A and 40 C.F.R. Part 51 Subpart T) that apply to the new classification or designation for use in all subsequent conformity determinations.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.94 RCW and 40 C.F.R. Part 51 Subpart T. WSR 95-18-022 (Order 94-31), § 173-420-050, filed 8/25/95, effective 9/25/95. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.94 RCW and RCW 70.94.037. WSR 93-04-006 (Order 92-07), § 173-420-050, filed 1/22/93, effective 2/22/93.]