

**Chapter 16-168 WAC**  
**APPROVED INDEPENDENT SANITATION CONSULTANTS FOR FOOD STORAGE WARE-**  
**HOUSES**

Last Update: 8/6/20

**WAC**

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**DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER**

16-168-040	How is independent sanitation consultant defined in RCW 69.10.005(5)? [Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-040, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-040, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.] Repealed by WSR 20-17-020, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025.
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**WAC 16-168-010 Purpose of rule.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum qualifications, application approval procedures, list maintenance and reporting requirements for independent sanitation consultants.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-010, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-010, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-010, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-020 Promulgation.** The department is given authority under RCW 69.10.055 for adopting these rules.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-020, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-020, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-020, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-030 Definitions.** The definitions for terms used in this chapter may be found in chapters 69.10 and 15.130 RCW and WAC 16-167-050(2). For the purposes of this chapter, the term "we" means department as defined in chapter 69.10 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-030, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-030, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-030, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-050 Minimum qualifications for an independent sanitation consultant.** The minimum qualifications for an independent sanitation consultant are:

**Education and experience:**

(1) A bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, microbiology, food science, dairy science or a related natural science plus three years experience inspecting food storage warehouses or similar operations for compliance with the Current Good Manufacturing Regulations, 21 C.F.R. part 110 (GMPs); or

(2) Three years of college completed with study in the above subjects plus five years experience inspecting food storage warehouses or similar operations for compliance with the GMPs; or

(3) Two years of college completed with study in the above subjects plus seven years experience inspecting food storage warehouses or similar operations for compliance with the GMPs; or

(4) Eight years experience inspecting food storage warehouses or similar operations for compliance with the GMPs plus verifiable training in pest control, cleaning practices, food storage warehouse inspection or application of the GMPs.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-050, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-050, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-050, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-060 Applying for approval as an independent sanitation consultant.** The steps in applying for approval as an independent sanitation consultant are:

(1) Obtain an application from the department.

(2) Complete the application, listing your qualifications.

(3) Each applicant must sign the application and have his/her signature notarized.

(4) Return the application to the address on the application.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-060, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-060, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-060, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-070 Notification of application decision.** (1) **On approval of an application for independent sanitation consultant,** the department will send an identification card and place the name of the independent sanitation consultant on a list of approved independent sanitation consultants that is available on request from the department.

(2) **If the department is not able to approve an application for independent sanitation consultant,** the department will notify the applicant and explain why within twenty-five working days after receiving the application.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-070, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-070, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-070, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-075 List of approved independent sanitation consultants.** The department will maintain a list of approved independent sanitation consultants. The names of approved independent sanitation consultants will stay on the list as long as they continue to indicate that they wish to remain on the list. The department will mail out information requests by April 1st of each even-numbered year to all approved independent sanitation consultants.

(1) **To remain on the list,** the independent sanitation consultant must fill out the request with current information, indicate that they want to remain on the list and return it to the department no later than May 1st.

(2) **To be removed from the list,** the independent sanitation consultant should return the request indicating they no longer wish to be listed as an approved independent sanitation consultant by May 1st. Failure to return the request will also result in being removed from the list.

(3) It is the responsibility of the independent sanitation consultants to notify the department of address changes. If the department is unable to locate an independent sanitation consultant at the address or telephone number provided, that name will be removed from the list.

(4) A name will be returned to the list upon receipt of the request and new information.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-075, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-075, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98.]

**WAC 16-168-080 Reasons for denial or withdrawal of approval as an independent sanitation consultant.** The department may withdraw or deny approval of independent sanitation consultants or applicants under the following circumstances:

(1) For failing to meet the minimum qualifications in WAC 16-168-050.

(2) For knowingly making false or inaccurate statements regarding qualifications on an application.

(3) For failing to accurately report violative conditions present in food storage warehouse at the time of inspection.

(4) For knowingly making or acquiescing in false or inaccurate statements on inspection reports as to the date of the inspection, findings, corrective actions taken, or any other statement material to the compliance status of a warehouse.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-080, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-080, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-080, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-090 Appeal rights.** Applicants and approved independent sanitation consultants have the right to appeal denial of approval or withdrawal of approval as an independent sanitation consultant under provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act and chapter 16-08 WAC, the department's practice and procedure rules.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-090, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-090, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-090, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]

**WAC 16-168-100 Reporting requirements.** Independent sanitation consultants can meet reporting requirements by using a standard food storage warehouse inspection form provided by the department or by using their own form if it covers and indicates visual inspection of at least the following points:

**STORAGE CONDITIONS**

1. Are incoming lots examined visually for damage or contamination prior to placement in storage?
2. Are food products stored off the floor and away from walls?
3. Does firm maintain a morgue area for damaged and returned goods, sufficiently away from main storage area?
4. Are morgue items disposed of in a proper and timely manner to prevent a source of pest breeding and harborage?
5. Are fertilizers, toxic chemicals, and other potential adulterants adequately separated from human food storage areas?
6. Are rodenticides and insecticides properly used and stored?
7. Are refrigerated storage and frozen storage maintained at proper temperatures, 45 degrees or less?
8. Are cold storage units equipped with suitable thermometers?
9. Is storage area free of evidence of current insect, rodent, bird, etc., activity?

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

1. Are outside premises free from spillage, trash, etc., which may attract or harbor rodents or other pests?
2. Is adequate drainage provided to avoid contamination of facilities and products?
3. Is the building of suitable construction and generally in good physical repair?
4. Are floors, walls and ceilings constructed of easily cleanable materials and kept clean?
5. Are doors, windows and other openings protected to eliminate entry by insects, rodents and other pests? Are open windows screened and are loading doors kept closed when not in use?
6. Is interior lighting sufficient to allow adequate inspection and cleaning of premises?
7. Are food products and processing areas protected against contamination from breakage of light bulbs and other glass fixtures?
8. Does firm have a scheduled cleaning and pest control program, including at least weekly inspection by qualified employees?

**SANITARY OPERATIONS**

1. Is cleaning of facilities done in such a manner as to avoid contamination of food products?
2. Are detergents, sanitizers, hazardous materials and other supplies used in a safe and effective manner?

3. Are cleaning compounds and hazardous materials kept in original containers, stored separate from food products?
4. Is all refuse properly stored and protected where necessary from insects, rodents and other pests and disposed of in an adequate manner?

**TOILETS, DRESSING ROOMS AND EMPLOYEES**

1. Are toilets and dressing rooms in good repair, clean, properly ventilated and adequately separated from storage areas?
2. Are handwashing facilities clean and supplied with soap, hot water and sanitary towels?

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.30.120, 69.07.020, 69.10.055, and 16.49.025. WSR 20-17-020, § 16-168-100, filed 8/6/20, effective 9/6/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.10.055. WSR 98-03-089, § 16-168-100, filed 1/21/98, effective 2/21/98; WSR 96-09-037 (Order 5093), § 16-168-100, filed 4/10/96, effective 5/11/96.]