

RCW 69.48.110 Enforcement and penalties. (1) The department may audit or inspect the activities and records of a drug take-back program to determine compliance with this chapter or investigate a complaint.

(2) (a) The department shall send a written notice to a covered manufacturer that fails to participate in a drug take-back program as required by this chapter. The notice must provide a warning regarding the penalties for violation of this chapter.

(b) A covered manufacturer that receives a notice under this subsection (2) may be assessed a penalty if, sixty days after receipt of the notice, the covered manufacturer continues to sell a covered drug in or into the state without participating in a drug take-back program approved under this chapter.

(3) (a) The department may send a program operator a written notice warning of the penalties for noncompliance with this chapter if it determines that the program operator's drug take-back program is in violation of this chapter or does not conform to the proposal approved by the department. The department may assess a penalty on the program operator and participating covered manufacturers if the program does not come into compliance by thirty days after receipt of the notice.

(b) The department may immediately suspend operation of a drug take-back program and assess a penalty if it determines that the program is in violation of this chapter and the violation creates a condition that, in the judgment of the department, constitutes an immediate hazard to the public or the environment.

(4) (a) The department shall send a written notice to a drug wholesaler or a retail pharmacy that fails to provide a list of drug manufacturers to the department as required by RCW 69.48.040. The notice must provide a warning regarding the penalties for violation of this chapter.

(b) A drug wholesaler or retail pharmacy that receives a notice under this subsection may be assessed a penalty if, sixty days after receipt of the notice, the drug wholesaler or retail pharmacy fails to provide a list of drug manufacturers.

(5) In enforcing the requirements of this chapter, the department:

(a) May require an informal administrative conference;

(b) May require a person or entity to engage in or refrain from engaging in certain activities pertaining to this chapter;

(c) May, in accordance with RCW 43.70.095, assess a civil fine of up to two thousand dollars. Each day upon which a violation occurs or is permitted to continue constitutes a separate violation. In determining the appropriate amount of the fine, the department shall consider the extent of harm caused by the violation, the nature and persistence of the violation, the frequency of past violations, any action taken to mitigate the violation, and the financial burden to the entity in violation; and

(d) May not prohibit a covered manufacturer from selling a drug in or into the state of Washington. [2018 c 196 § 11.]

Sunset Act application: See note following chapter digest.