

WAC 314-35-070 Penalty structure. (1) The board determines if a penalty will be imposed. Penalties are based on the severity of the violation in the following categories:

(a) Category I: Violations that create a direct or immediate threat to public health, safety, or both;

(b) Category II: Violations that create a potential threat to public health, safety, or both; and

(c) Category III: Regulatory violations.

(2) For purposes of assessing penalties, only violations occurring in the three-year time period immediately preceding the date of the violation will be considered unless otherwise provided in the chapter.

(3) The board may, at its discretion, deviate from the prescribed penalties herein consistent with RCW 70.345.180. Such deviations will be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering mitigating or aggravating factors.

(a) Mitigating factors may result in a waiving or lowering of fines, civil penalties, imposition of a fine in lieu of suspension, or fewer days of suspension. Mitigating factors may include demonstrated business policies and practices that may reduce risk to public health and safety.

(b) Aggravating factors may result in increased days of suspension, increased monetary penalties, cancellation, or nonrenewal of a vapor products license. Aggravating factors may include obstructing an investigation, business operations, behaviors, or both, that increase risk to public health and safety.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.345 RCW, RCW 82.24.250, 82.32.300, and 2019 c 15 and 2019 c 445. WSR 20-01-074, § 314-35-070, filed 12/11/19, effective 1/1/20.]