

## 34.01.03 Environment

Approved [January 30, 2024](#)  
Next Scheduled Review January 30, 2029



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### Regulation Summary

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It is the objective of The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) that its operations and persons associated with its operations cultivate environmental performance and model good practices wherever its facilities and activities interface with the natural and built environments.

The scope of these practices encompasses, but is not limited to, providing clean and safe settings for learning and inquiry; factoring the environment into our planning, acquisitions, designs, construction, operations, maintenance and activities; creating learning opportunities for our campus communities; conserving renewable and natural resources; preventing pollution; and fostering compliance with applicable environmental laws.

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### Definitions

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Click to view [Definitions](#).

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### Regulation

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The A&M System and its members realize this environmental regulation by means of environmental management systems (EMS) that identify significant environmental interfaces and manage these on a priority basis with appropriate resources within the context of the A&M System's mission. Each EMS is based on the EMS performance cycle as outlined below.

#### 1. EMS PERFORMANCE CYCLE

The EMS performance cycle consists of four core functions that provide the framework for managing existing activities and any new activity that could potentially affect the environment.

**Plan** – The *planning* process defines objectives and performance requirements, establishes controls, and selects and develops personnel. It includes defining the scope of the activity and identifying and analyzing the associated environmental interfaces, potential impacts and regulatory requirements.

**Do** – The *action* process consists of performing the planned activity within established controls. It provides resources, training and communication to fulfill the plan, includes implementing operational controls to prevent or mitigate environmental impacts and complies with applicable regulations and procedures.

**Check** – The *verification* process measures and assesses results and progress and takes corrective actions. It includes monitoring or measurement of environmental performance, assessment of the adequacy of controls and opportunities for improvement, and performance of corrective actions as needed.

**Act (Adjust)** – The *adjustment* process reviews and adjusts the systems as necessary to achieve intended results without unacceptable environmental impacts. It includes management reviews of activities and outcomes and communication of review findings and recommendations to activity planners who then continue the EMS performance cycle.

## 2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The A&M System regulation on the environment applies to and must be clearly communicated to all members of the A&M System community and its contractors. The responsibilities for communicating and implementing this regulation are as follows.

- 2.1 The chancellor is responsible for implementing this environmental regulation with the objective of achieving effective environmental management throughout the A&M System.
- 2.2 The chancellor and each member chief executive officer (CEO) will affirmatively endorse this environmental policy through annual statements to the member's respective campus or agency communities.
- 2.3 The chancellor and each member CEO will designate a person responsible to be the contact for environmental matters and will designate environmental liaisons for key departments to implement the regulation through developing and administering an EMS and conducting other environmental activities as appropriate.
- 2.4 The chancellor and CEOs will establish advisory councils to guide and assess regulation implementation, with emphasis on both environmental stewardship and compliance in light of the stated goals and objectives.
- 2.5 A&M System Office of Environment, Safety and Security (ESS) guides members to establish, implement and update environmental controls, consisting of short-term and long-term environmental objectives with specific targets that can measurably indicate performance.
- 2.6 A&M System ESS will (a) implement a System Offices EMS, (b) act as facilitator for each member EMS, offering oversight and guidance, and (c) offer other environmental support services to the A&M System and its members as necessary.
- 2.7 Facilities services, campus planning and other responsible parties will notify the A&M System ESS and/or the member-designated environmental points-of-contact in writing prior to program-of-requirements, planning and design of construction and renovation projects, before significant ground disturbances, and before disturbance of suspected asbestos-containing building materials, affording an opportunity for input on relevant antiquities and environmental concerns.

### 3 REPORTING

Each member CEO submits an annual report to A&M System ESS on the status of the member's EMS and environmental activities, including measured progress toward achieving environmental objectives and targets.

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#### **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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System Policy [\*15.04, Sponsored Research Services\*](#)

System Policy [\*34.05, Smoking\*](#)

System Policy [\*41.01, Real Property\*](#)

System Regulation [\*41.01.01, Real Property\*](#)

System Policy [\*51.01, Capital Planning\*](#)

System Policy [\*51.04, General Requirements and Delegations of Authority on Construction Projects\*](#)

System Regulation [\*51.04.01, Chancellor's Delegation of Authority on Construction Projects\*](#)

System Policy [\*51.07, Preservation of Historic Properties\*](#)

#### **Applicable Laws and Regulations**

Environmental management is governed by a far-reaching set of environmental laws and regulations, many of which apply to at least some of the activities and operations that occur on A&M System campuses and facilities. The regulations are too numerous to cite here, but they mostly fall under the authority of several major environmental laws, as listed below.

[Clean Air Act \(CAA\)](#)

[Clean Water Act \(CWA\)](#) (original title: Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972)

[Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act \(CERCLA, or Superfund\)](#)

[Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#)

[Endangered Species Act \(ESA\)](#)

[Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#)

Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments - See [Clean Water Act](#)

[National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#)

[Oil Pollution Act \(OPA\)](#)

[Pollution Prevention Act \(PPA\)](#)

[Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(RCRA\)](#)

[Safe Drinking Water Act \(SDWA\)](#)

Superfund - See [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act](#)

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) - See [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act](#)

[Toxic Substances Control Act \(TSCA\)](#)

[National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#)

[Antiquities Code of Texas](#)

[Tex. Health & Safety Code Title 5. Sanitation and Environmental Quality](#)

[Tex. Occ. Code Ch. 1954. Asbestos Health Protection](#)

[Tex. Occ. Code Ch. 1958. Mold Assessors and Remediators](#)

[Tex. Water Code](#)

[Tex. Nat. Res. Code](#)

Other environmental laws are less central to the day-to-day management of higher education, but one or more may have some bearing on certain A&M System activities or operations. These may include:

[Atomic Energy Act \(AEA\)](#)

[Chemical Safety Information, Site Security and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act](#)

[Energy Independence and Security Act \(EISA\)](#)

[Energy Policy Act](#)

[EO 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations](#)

[EO 13045: Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks](#)

[EO 13211: Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use](#)

[Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act \(FFDCA\)](#)

Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) - See [FFDCA](#) and [FIFRA](#)

[Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act \(MPRSA, also known as the Ocean Dumping Act\)](#)

[National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act \(NTTAA\)](#)

[Noise Control Act](#)

[Nuclear Waste Policy Act \(NWPA\)](#)

[Occupational Safety and Health Act \(OSHA\)](#)

Ocean Dumping Act - See [Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act](#)

Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) - See [FIFRA](#)

[Shore Protection Act \(SPA\)](#)

## **Regulatory Agencies Having Jurisdiction**

In Texas, the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) (TCEQ) is the principle environmental regulatory body for most compliance requirements. Other environmental programs are variously governed by:

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA)

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) (USACE)

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) (FWS)

[Texas Department of State Health Services](#) (DSHS)

[Texas General Land Office](#) (GLO)

[Texas Department of Agriculture](#) (TDA)

[Railroad Commission of Texas](#) (RRC)

[Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board](#) (TSSWCB)

[Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#) (TPWD)

[Texas State Energy Conservation Office](#) (SECO)

[Texas Water Development Board](#) (TWDB)

[Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation](#) (TDLR)

[Texas Historical Commission](#) (THC)

[Texas Animal Health Commission](#) (TAHC)

The January 30, 2024 version of this regulation supersedes the following regulation:  
*24.01.03, Environment*

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## **Member Rule Requirements**

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A rule is not required to supplement this regulation.

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## **Contact Office**

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Environment, Safety and Security  
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