



## Guide to the Expanded 'Industrial General Permit' Requirements & How to Determine if Your Business Needs to Comply in the First Place

### What is the Industrial General Permit (IGP)?

The IGP, overseen by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), is a required permit for certain industrial and commercial businesses in order to discharge stormwater from their facilities into the District storm drain system or surface waters.

### Which businesses are subject to the IGP?

To determine if your business is subject to the IGP requirements, you must know your Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. An SIC code classifies your business by its primary industrial activity. If you do not know your business's SIC code, navigate to the following web address: <https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html>.

The range of SIC codes subject to the IGP is detailed in Attachment A of the IGP, located on the State Water Resources Control Board website.



### How to Obtain Coverage:

If your business is not already covered by the IGP, and you have determined you need coverage per your SIC code, you will need to obtain coverage through the Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) online. If your business is already covered under the IGP, you should check to see if your site now qualifies for an NEC (No Exposure Certification) or NONA (Notice of Non-Applicability), detailed below. Your business has the following potential options:



### Option 1: No Exposure Certification (NEC)

If your site is operated in such a way that no processes, pollutants, or materials can come into contact with stormwater, you may qualify. The NEC is a signed statement from the business owner/operator stating the site is managed in such a way that stormwater cannot become polluted by the facility. To meet this standard, the operator must agree to:

- Protect all industrial materials and processes from exposure to rain and surface flows coming onto and leaving from the site;
- Inspect and evaluate the facility annually and keep records of such inspections;
- Certify that there have been no discharges of contaminated stormwater; and
- Submit permit registration documents.

Operations that qualify for NEC coverage are not required to have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan or conduct stormwater monitoring.

For information and instructions regarding the NEC, navigate to the IGP Appendix 2 or [www.fresnofloodcontrol.org](http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org).

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## Option 2: Notice of Non-Applicability (NONA)

Businesses may qualify for complete exemption from the IGP under two circumstances: if a California licensed professional engineer completes a study (technical report) of the site and confirms that there is enough on-site stormwater runoff storage capacity to avoid discharging pollutants to the local drainage system (even during a repeat of the region's maximum historic precipitation event), or if the facility is located in a drainage area that is not hydrologically connected to the waters of the U.S.

## Option 3: Notice of Intent (NOI)

If your site does not qualify for either an NEC or NONA, then you must file for full Industrial General Permit coverage. Your filing will include the submission of Permit Registration Documents and the payment of an annual fee. The Permit Registration Documents include a Notice of Intent (NOI), Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), a monitoring plan, and a scaled map of the facility/site.



Don't delay in preparing to file your NEC, NONA, or NOI; depending on your situation, you may need the services of a Qualified Industrial Stormwater Practitioner or California licensed professional engineer to confirm your status with respect to the IGP and to prepare and file documents.



## Why does all of this matter?

Federal stormwater regulations are in place in order to prevent stormwater from becoming contaminated by processing, storage, handling, or transport operations. The IGP is the mechanism employed for businesses to ensure compliance with stormwater testing, spill clean-up, methods, and reporting schedules, thereby demonstrating that the site is being operated in a way that safeguards water quality. In our region, stormwater running off from most industrial and commercial operations flows to the regional stormwater management basin system, where most of the water soaks in and replenishes the groundwater, eventually becoming the water we use on a daily basis.

If you allow or cause the discharge of pollutants from your business site to enter the storm drain system (which, in the Fresno-Clovis region, means the street, gutter, or storm drain inlets), you could be found by the State, the EPA, or a third-party to be in violation of the Clean Water Act and related state statutes and local ordinances. Once a pollutant discharge occurs and is reported, the compliance requirements become significantly more demanding (i.e. expensive, complicated, and time-consuming), and there is the distinct possibility of legal exposure. To avoid these challenges, follow the proper permitting process and protect our water.