

Illegal Drug Lab Decontamination and Certification *Frequently Asked Questions*

PROPERTY OWNERS

Q. My property has been posted by police as being a clandestine drug lab, what do I do now?

A. If your property is determined to be a clandestine drug lab and posted by law enforcement, you have four days to ensure that access to the residence is restricted and that the property is secured from access. The property may only be accessed to decontaminate and sample the residence.

There are currently no federal or universal cleanup standards developed at this time for properties contaminated by meth labs. The State of Alaska has established reoccupation standards and decontamination requirements.

Q. I own a multi-unit apartment complex and one of the units has been posted as an illegal meth lab. How does this affect the other units in the building?

A. Units sharing a ventilation system may be affected. The owner of the multi-unit property is required to sample the ductwork and ventilation registers in all units that share the ventilation system for meth. If meth is detected above the cleanup level, the unit must be decontaminated as outlined in the *Guidance and Standards for Cleanup of Illegal Drug-Manufacturing Sites*. This document can be found in the following web site:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/methlab>

Q. Where can I find a cleanup company?

A. Although ADEC strongly recommends that the property owner consider utilizing qualified person for decontamination, and environmental or health

professionals for confirmation sampling, State law does not require this.

Section 3.2 of the *Guidance and Standards for Cleanup of Illegal Drug-Manufacturing Sites* identifies what is required and provides recommendations for hiring a contractor to perform these services. The best place to locate a contractor with these qualifications is in the yellow pages of your phone book or to call your local environmental consulting companies.



Q. What lab do I use to analyze the samples?

A. The analytical laboratories identified in the ADEC website may be utilized to perform the sample analyses required to determine whether a residence, formerly used as a meth manufacturing site, is "Fit for Use". The downloadable file has contact information for laboratories and a list of analyses each lab can or cannot do. The file can be found at the following website address:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/methlab>

NOTE: All methamphetamine samples will have to be shipped out of state to one of the laboratories on the list. Turnaround time for analytical results varies between laboratories. At the time that this list was compiled, SGS Environmental Services was the only laboratory located within the state that had the capability of performing the analysis for

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meth. However, even SGS must ship these samples to their facilities located in the continental USA.

Q. What records should I keep if I have certified my property to be decontaminated and meeting state clean up standards?

A. Recommended cleanup documentations are provided in the Appendix B of the *Guidance and Standards for Cleanup of Illegal Drug-Manufacturing Site*. Although not a requirement, cleanup documentations should be retained, at minimum, until the house or residence is sold.

Q. How do I get my property off the list?

A. To remove the property from the list and allow reoccupation, the property owner or owner's agent is required to do the following:

- Decontaminate the property and collect samples in accordance with Section 3 and 4 of the *Guidance and Standards for Cleanup of Illegal Drug-Manufacturing Site*.
- Submit samples to a laboratory for analysis. If the sample results do not confirm that decontamination efforts were sufficient to meet the cleanup standards, additional decontamination is required and samples must be retaken for those areas that failed to meet the cleanup standards.
- Submit documentation to ADEC certifying that cleanup standards have been met. The property must remain on the list of drug-manufacturing sites for five years after it is determined that the property is "Fit for

Use". Once the five year period has elapsed, ADEC will remove the property from the list within a three month period. ADEC will provide a copy of the list to any person upon request.

Note: A person, who knowingly transfers, sells, leases, or rents a meth lab property that has not been determined to be 'Fit for Use' is in violation of AS 46.03.510. This violation is a class A misdemeanor. Persons convicted of a class A misdemeanor can be sentenced up to one year in jail and/or fined up to \$10,000.