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## ***Environmental Information Quality Management Plan Standard Frequently Asked Questions***

### Whom does the directive apply to?

The [Quality Management Plan \(QMP\) Standard](#) applies to all Agency employees responsible for environmental information operations. This includes EPA Program Offices, Regions, and their sub-organizations. The Standard also applies to non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations in support of EPA's mission or national program priorities.

### Is there applicability to non-EPA organizations?

Non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations on behalf of EPA as defined by and in accordance with federal laws and legal requirements including administrative orders/enforcement actions, regulations, extramural agreements, or performing work on a voluntary basis under agreement with EPA must adhere to the standard. Non-EPA organizations include but are not limited to contractors, regulated parties, cooperative agreement holders, grantees, states, tribes, localities, intergovernmental agencies, educational institutions, hospitals, non-profits, other federal governmental agencies, and parties to Memoranda of Agreement or Understanding, volunteer organizations, and other environmental information providers.

### What is the purpose?

The QMP Standard supports the implementation of EPA's [Environmental Information Quality Policy and Environmental Information Quality Procedure](#). The Standard defines the minimum requirements for QMPs for all EPA and non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations. Environmental information operations is a collective term that encompasses the collection, production, evaluation, or use of environmental information by or for EPA and the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology by EPA.

### Why does EPA have Environmental Information Quality Management Plan Directive?

Minimum requirements and responsibilities defined in the QMP Standard ensure environmental information operations products and services are of known and documented quality, scientifically valid, legally defensible and are appropriate for their intended use in support of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

### When does the directive go into effect?

The Directive went into effect on January 17, 2023, when signed by the EPA Chief Information Officer and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information. Changes reflected in the QMP Standard that are not currently included in an organization's approved QPM and/or Quality Assurance



(QA) Project Plan(s) will be required to be incorporated during the next revision and approval of those documents.

How do I implement these directives?

Each EPA National Program and Regional Office develops and implements its own individual QMP Plan which supports the EPA Quality Program. The EPA organization's QA Manager (QAM) in coordination with their leadership is responsible for implementation of the QMP Standard. The QAM also serves as a central point of contact for guidance and technical support to state, tribal, and territory organizations.

Are these directives in addition to existing quality requirements?

The QMP Standard supersedes *EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (EPA QA/R-2, March 2001)*; *EPA Guidance for Developing Quality Systems for Environmental Programs (EPA QA/G-1, November 2002)*; and *EPA Guidance for Developing a Training Program for Quality Systems (EPA QA/G-10 December 2000)*.

Why does the format of this directive differ from the past version?

This directive is written in the Office of Mission Support Information Technology/Information Management directives template.

Are there any Agency documents or training to assist in meeting these directives?

Communication documents consist of: Frequently Asked Questions, memorandum from the EPA Chief Information Officer and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information to the Associate Administrators and Regional Administrators, one-page information sheet, desk statement, and updates to the CIO News Brief and Administrative Updates. Also, Train the Trainer slides will be provided to QAMs. QAM's are responsibility for providing organization-specific training.