



ICIS Fact Sheet

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/data/systems/icis/index.html>



Fact Sheet – What is the right Enforcement and Compliance Information Tool for me?

There are three main options for interested parties to get Enforcement and Compliance information from EPA: ICIS, OTIS, and ECHO. These three options are not available to everyone, and they serve different purposes. The goal of this fact sheet is to present these options to you and provide background information and context so you know which option to use.

1. Is the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) the right system for me?

ICIS is a secure system only available to registered EPA and State users. ICIS best serves the Federal and State users who are responsible for managing the information in the system, or who use ICIS frequently as part of their jobs. ICIS is a complex and comprehensive tool for the most current enforcement and compliance data. ICIS is primarily used for programmatic management of EPA's federal enforcement and compliance program. Regional, State and headquarters personnel generally enter data into ICIS to manage EPA's regulatory programs, particularly the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

For Federal and State users there are **training resources** and a **help desk** to support your ICIS needs.

2. I am a federal or State employee and would like to access comprehensive data on enforcement and compliance- Where should I go?

[Online Tracking Information System \(OTIS\)](#)

OTIS is a secure system available to any government agency employee interested in Enforcement and Compliance data. OTIS is not available to the public, but it is used by government employees in many environmental program offices.

OTIS provides a viable, easy-to-use alternative to ICIS to get detailed enforcement and compliance information. OTIS integrates ICIS data with information from other databases and has easy-to-use, menu driven reporting capabilities. OTIS provides Permit Compliance System (PCS) management reports, ICIS case reports, detailed facility reports, mapping capabilities, and several other reporting formats.



OTIS has an integrated error tracking system which allows users to identify potential data quality issues. The enforcement and compliance data in OTIS are updated on a monthly basis, so they typically are not quite as current as the data in ICIS.

3. I am a member of the public and would like to see data about enforcement of environmental laws and compliance with the laws - Where should I go?

[Enforcement and Compliance History Online \(ECHO\)](#)

ECHO is your best option. ECHO is a Web-based tool that provides public users with compliance monitoring, enforcement, and demographic data for approximately 800,000 active facilities regulated under the Clean Air Act stationary source program, the Clean Water Act direct discharge program, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste generation program.

4. As a citizen, I would like to know if the facilities in my neighborhood are in compliance.

Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) is your best option since anyone with access to the Internet can use ECHO. The ECHO 'Quick Search' capability can easily give you information about your neighborhood.

The Enforcement and Compliance History Online ([ECHO](#)) allows users to find permit, inspection, violation, enforcement action, and penalty information covering the past three to five years. The site includes facilities regulated as Clean Air Act stationary sources, Clean Water Act direct dischargers, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste generators/handlers. The data in ECHO are updated monthly.

ECHO provides communities with important enforcement and compliance information about regulated facilities. ECHO provides an easily understandable and searchable format, and users can view this data in a comprehensive and organized manner. ECHO allows users to sort and analyze data in many ways, according to their needs.

By using ECHO, the public can monitor environmental compliance in communities, corporations can monitor compliance across facilities they own, and investors can more easily factor environmental performance into their decisions.

For additional information please contact Jernell Battle at battle.jernell@epa.gov.

5. I work for another federal, state or local government agency outside of EPA and I would like to have access to some portion of the ICIS data. How can I get access?



Your best option is to use the EPA web-based tool known as the Online Tracking Information System (OTIS). Only government agencies have access to OTIS.

OTIS enables EPA staff, state/local/tribal governments and federal agencies to access a wide range of data relating to enforcement and compliance. OTIS can be used for many functions, including planning, targeting, analysis, data quality review, and pre-inspection review.

In addition to performing data analyses, OTIS capabilities include:

- helping the regions and states to identify and clean up data errors
- providing report information on a cross-media basis, leading to improved integration and targeting
- enabling other government agencies to more efficiently monitor their facilities' compliance records.

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6. What if my needs are not met by any of the tools? Can I FOIA the information?

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5 of the United States Code, section 552, generally provides that any person has the right to request access to federal agency records or information. All agencies of the U.S. Government are required to disclose records upon receiving a written request, except those records that are protected from disclosure. The FOIA applies only to federal agencies and does not create a right of access to records held by Congress, the courts, or by state or local government agencies. For more information on using FOIAs to obtain data and information from EPA, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/FOIA>