

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS -  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REGULATIONS CHECKLIST**

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**INTRODUCTION**

This checklist is based on the Council on Environmental Quality requirements for Environmental Impact Statements in 40 CFR 1500-1508 and the provisions of NEPA itself. It also includes space for customization to agency-specific requirements for both content and format. Because there is less specific regulatory guidance for Environmental Assessments than for Environmental Impact Statements, this checklist is much shorter than the one for Environmental Impact Statements. Because EAs often are used as decision documents as well as the means to determine whether or not to prepare an EIS, certain additional aspects of the affected environment and environmental consequences are included on this checklist although strictly speaking they may not be required for EAs.

Each requirement of the CEQ regulations is cited in column 2. Therefore, this checklist can serve both as a tool for reviewers and a tool for document preparers who wish to ensure that each document complies with all the necessary legal requirements.



**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS -  
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CONTENT REQUIREMENTS**

**Project Name:**

**Reviewed by:**

**Date:**

Documentation Requirement	CEQ / NEPA Reference	+ / -	Remarks
<b>Purpose and Need:</b>			
• brief description	§ 1502.13		
• agency purpose and need	§ 1502.13		
• related to alternatives including the proposed action	§ 1502.13		

Documentation Requirement	CEQ / NEPA Reference	+ / -	Remarks
<b>Alternatives Incl. Proposed Action:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>based on information /analysis in sections on Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presents impacts in comparative form</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sharply defines issues</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides clear basis for choice among options</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rigorously explores all reasonable alternatives</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (a)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>objectively evaluates all reasonable alternatives</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (a)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describes alternatives eliminated from detailed study, and states why</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (a)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>devotes substantial treatment to each alternative examined in detail</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (b)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the agency</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (c)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes No Action</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (d)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>range encompasses those to be considered by agency decision maker</li> </ul>	§ 1502.2(e)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes mitigation measures not described elsewhere</li> </ul>	§ 1502.14 (f)		

Documentation Requirement	CEQ / NEPA Reference	+ / -	Remarks
<b>Environmental Consequences:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>scientific and analytic basis for comparison of alternatives</li> </ul>	§ 1502.16		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consolidates discussion of NEPA requirements:</li> <li>environmental impacts of proposed action</li> <li>adverse effects which cannot be avoided</li> <li>relationship between short-term uses and long-term productivity</li> <li>irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources</li> <li>alternatives as needed</li> </ul>	§ 1502.16 102(2)(C) i 102(2)(C) ii 102(2)(C) iv 102(2)(C) v) 102(2)(C) iii		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>direct effects and their significance</li> </ul>	§ 1502.16 (a)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>indirect effects and significance</li> </ul>	§ 1502.16 (b)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conflicts with other plans, policies</li> </ul>	§ 1502.16 (c)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation measures</li> </ul>	§ 1502.16 (h)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cumulative impacts</li> </ul>	§ 1508.7		

Documentation Requirement	CEQ / NEPA Reference	+ / -	Remarks
<b>Finding of No Significant Impact:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>briefly presents reasons why action will not have significant impact</li> </ul>	§ 1508.13		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes Environmental Assessment or summary of it</li> </ul>	§ 1508.13		