C.52:27D-130.4 Rules, regulations adopted by DHSS relative to contaminated property; certification; definitions; enforcement.

1. a. Within 12 months after the effective date of this act, the Department of Health and Senior Services shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) that establish: (1) procedures for the evaluation and assessment of the interior of buildings that are to be used for child care centers licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.), or for educational purposes; and (2) standards that establish maximum contaminant levels for building interiors to be used for child care centers licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes, that are protective of the public health and safety. The rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection shall be protective of the health of children and infants, and shall account for the difference in rate of the absorption, metabolism, and excretion of compounds between adults and infants and children.

b. The department shall establish an application process for the certification issued pursuant to subsection c. of this section. Every application for a certification shall be accompanied by a fee, established in accordance with a fee schedule adopted by the department, by rule or regulation, reflecting the costs of reviewing and processing the application. Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into a separate account, and shall be dedicated for use by the department solely for the purposes of administering and enforcing the provisions of this section and any rules or regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

c. Upon a demonstration to the department by the applicant that the procedures established pursuant to subsection a. of this section for the evaluation and assessment of building interiors have been followed, and that there are no contaminants present in the building that exceed the maximum contaminant levels established in subsection a. of this section, the department shall issue a certification that the building interior is safe for use as a child care center, or for educational purposes.

d. As used in this section: "contaminant" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 23 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-1); and "educational purposes" shall mean for the purposes of a private school or public school as defined in N.J.S.18A:1-1, or a charter school as defined pursuant to P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-1 et seq.).

e. Whenever the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services finds that a person has violated any provision of this section, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or knowingly makes a false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, or other document filed or required to be maintained pursuant to this section, the commissioner may assess a civil administrative penalty of not more than $25,000 for a first offense, and not more than $50,000 for the second and every subsequent offense. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute an additional, separate, and distinct offense. The department may compromise and settle any claim for a penalty pursuant to this subsection in an amount as the department determines is appropriate and equitable under the circumstances.

Any penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection may be collected, with costs, in a summary proceeding pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274
The Superior Court and the municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999" in connection with this section.

C.52:27D-130.5 Issuance of construction permit for child care, educational center for certain locations; certification required; remediation.

2. a. (1) No construction permit shall be issued pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-130) for the reconstruction, alteration, conversion, or repair of any building or structure to be used for a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.), or for educational purposes, if that building or structure was previously used for industrial, storage, or high hazard purposes, as a nail salon, dry cleaning facility, or gasoline station, or is on a contaminated site, on a site on which there is suspected contamination, or on an industrial site that is subject to the provisions of the "Industrial Site Recovery Act," P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-6 et al.), except upon the submission of the certification issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.1 (C.52:27D-130.4) to the construction official by the applicant, that the building or structure has been evaluated and assessed for contaminants, and that the building or structure is safe for use as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection to the contrary, a construction permit may be issued for the construction or alteration of any building or structure to be used as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes, if the construction permit is necessary to perform work in the building or structure in order to comply with the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2007, c.1 (C.52:27D-130.4) and obtain the certification issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L.2007, c.1 (C.52:27D-130.4).

A construction permit issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be limited to the construction or alterations necessary to comply with the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2007, c.1 (C.52:27D-130.4).

(3) The appropriate enforcing agency shall not grant a certificate of occupancy for any building or structure to be used as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes, that received a construction permit pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, except upon the submission of the certification issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L.2007, c.1 (C.52:27D-130.4) to the construction official by the applicant, that the building or structure has been evaluated and assessed for contaminants, and that the building or structure is safe for use as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes.

b. (1) No construction permit shall be issued for the construction or alteration of any building or structure to be used as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes, on a site that was previously used for industrial, storage, or high hazard purposes, as a nail salon, dry cleaning facility, or gasoline station, or on a contaminated site, on a site on which there is suspected contamination, or on an industrial site that is subject to the provisions of the "Industrial Site Recovery Act," P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-6 et al.), except after submission by the applicant to the construction official of documentation sufficient to establish that the Department of Environmental Protection has approved a remedial action workplan for the entire site or that
the site has been remediated consistent with the remediation standards and other remediation requirements established pursuant to section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12) and a no further action letter has been issued by the Department of Environmental Protection for the entire site.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection to the contrary, a construction permit may be issued for the construction or alteration of any building or structure to be used as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes, on a site that was previously used for industrial, storage, or high hazard purposes, as a nail salon, dry cleaning facility, or gasoline station, or on a contaminated site, on a site on which there is suspected contamination, or on an industrial site that is subject to the provisions of the "Industrial Site Recovery Act," P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-6 et al.), if the construction permit is necessary to remediate the site consistent with the remediation standards and other remediation requirements established pursuant to section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12) in order to obtain a no further action letter from the Department of Environmental Protection.

A construction permit issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be limited to the construction or alterations necessary to develop a remedial action workplan to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection for approval or to remediate the site consistent with the remediation standards and other remediation requirements established pursuant to section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12) and receive a no further action letter from the Department of Environmental Protection.

(3) The appropriate enforcing agency shall not grant a certificate of occupancy for any building or structure to be used as a child care center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492, or for educational purposes, that received a construction permit pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, except after submission by the applicant to the construction official of documentation sufficient to establish that the site has been remediated consistent with the remediation standards and other remediation requirements established pursuant to section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12) and receive a no further action letter has been issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

c. As used in this section: "contaminated site" means any real property on which there is contamination; "contamination," "remediation" or "remediate," and "no further action letter" shall have the same meanings as provided in section 23 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-1); and "educational purposes" means for the purposes of a private school or public school as defined in N.J.S.18A:1-1, or a charter school as defined pursuant to P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-1 et seq.).
Pursuit of any of the remedies specified under this section shall not preclude the seeking of any other remedy specified.

Any officer or management official of an industrial establishment who knowingly directs or authorizes the violation of any provisions of P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-6 et al.) shall be personally liable for the penalties established in this section.

b. Whenever the commissioner finds that a person has violated this act, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, the commissioner may issue an order specifying the provision or provisions of this act, or the rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, of which the person is in violation, citing the action that constituted the violation, ordering abatement of the violation, and giving notice to the person of the person's right to a hearing on the matters contained in the order. The ordered person shall have 20 calendar days from receipt of the order within which to deliver to the commissioner a written request for a hearing. After the hearing and upon finding that a violation has occurred, the commissioner may issue a final order. If no hearing is requested, the order shall become final after the expiration of the 20-day period. A request for hearing shall not automatically stay the effect of the order.

c. The commissioner may institute an action or proceeding in the Superior Court for injunctive and other relief to enforce the provisions of this act and to prohibit and prevent a violation of this act, or of any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, and the court may proceed in the action in a summary manner. In any such proceeding the court may grant temporary or interlocutory relief.

Such relief may include, singly or in combination:

(1) a temporary or permanent injunction;

(2) assessment of the violator for the reasonable costs of any inspection that led to the establishment of the violation, and for the reasonable costs of preparing and litigating the case under this subsection.

d. The commissioner may assess a civil administrative penalty of not more than $25,000 for a first offense, and not more than $50,000 for the second and every subsequent offense. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute an additional, separate, and distinct offense.

No assessment may be levied pursuant to this section until after the violator has been notified by certified mail or personal service. The notice shall include a reference to the section of the statute, rule, regulation, or order violated, a concise statement of the facts alleged to constitute a violation, a statement of the amount of the civil administrative penalties to be imposed, and a statement of the person's right to a hearing. The ordered person shall have 20 calendar days from receipt of the notice within which to deliver to the commissioner a written request for a hearing.

After the hearing and upon finding that a violation has occurred, the commissioner may issue a final order after assessing the amount of the fine specified in the notice. If no hearing is requested, the notice shall become a final order after the expiration of the 20-day period. Payment of the assessment is due when a final order is issued or the notice becomes a final order. The authority to levy a civil administrative penalty is in addition to all other enforcement provisions in this act, and the payment of any assessment shall not be deemed to affect the availability of any other enforcement provisions in connection with the violation for which the assessment is levied. The commissioner may compromise any civil administrative penalty assessed under this section in an amount the commissioner determines appropriate.
e. A person who violates this act, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, shall be liable for a penalty of not more than $25,000 per day, to be collected in a civil action commenced by the commissioner.

A person who violates an administrative order issued pursuant to subsection b. of this section, or a court order issued pursuant to subsection c. of this section, or who fails to pay an administrative assessment in full pursuant to subsection d. of this section is subject upon order of a court to a civil penalty not to exceed $50,000 per day of each violation.

Any penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection may be collected, with costs, in a summary proceeding pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The Superior Court and the municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999" in connection with this act.

4. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-9) is amended to read as follows:

C.13:1K-9 Closing, transfer procedures.

4. a. The owner or operator of an industrial establishment planning to close operations or transfer ownership or operations shall notify the department in writing, no more than five days subsequent to closing operations or of its public release of its decision to close operations, whichever occurs first, or within five days after the execution of an agreement to transfer ownership or operations, as applicable. The notice to the department shall: identify the subject industrial establishment; describe the transaction requiring compliance with P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-6 et al.); state the date of the closing of operations or the date of the public release of the decision to close operations as evidenced by a copy of the appropriate public announcement, if applicable; state the date of execution of the agreement to transfer ownership or operations and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the parties to the transfer, if applicable; state the proposed date for closing operations or transferring ownership or operations; list the name, address, and telephone number of an authorized agent for the owner or operator; and certify that the information submitted is accurate. The notice shall be transmitted to the department in the manner and form required by the department. The department may, by regulation, require the submission of any additional information in order to improve the efficient implementation of P.L.1983, c.330. The owner or operator of the industrial establishment shall also provide all information required to be submitted to the department pursuant to this subsection, to the clerk of the municipality in which the industrial establishment is located, at the same time the information is submitted to the department.

b. (1) Subsequent to the submittal of the notice required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the owner or operator of an industrial establishment shall, except as otherwise provided by P.L.1983, c.330 or P.L.1993, c.139 (C.13:1K-9.6 et al.), remediate the industrial establishment. The remediation shall be conducted in accordance with criteria, procedures, and time schedules established by the department.

(2) The owner or operator shall attach a copy of any approved negative declaration, approved remedial action workplan, no further action letter, or remediation agreement approval to the contract or agreement of sale or agreement to transfer or any option to purchase which may be entered into with respect to the transfer of ownership or operations. In the event that any sale or transfer agreements or options have been executed prior to the approval of a negative declaration, remedial action workplan, no further action letter, or remediation agreement, these documents, as relevant, shall be transmitted by the owner or operator, by certified mail, overnight delivery, or personal service, prior to the transfer of
ownership or operations, to all parties to any transaction concerning the transfer of ownership or operations, including purchasers, bankruptcy trustees, mortgagees, sureties, and financiers.

(3) The preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, and remedial action for the industrial establishment shall be performed and implemented by the owner or operator of the industrial establishment, except that any other party may assume that responsibility pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.330.

c. The owner or operator of an industrial establishment shall, subsequent to closing operations, or of its public release of its decision to close operations, or prior to transferring ownership or operations except as otherwise provided in subsection e. of this section, as applicable, submit to the department for approval a proposed negative declaration or proposed remedial action workplan. The owner or operator shall also provide written notification to the clerk of the municipality in which the industrial site is located, that upon written request, the municipality may receive a copy of the proposed negative declaration or proposed remedial action workplan. The owner or operator of the industrial establishment shall provide the requested documents to the clerk of the municipality within five days after receipt of the written request. Except as otherwise provided in section 6 of P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-11), and sections 13, 16, 17 and 18 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.13:1K-11.5, C.13:1K-11.6 and C.13:1K-11.7), the owner or operator of an industrial establishment shall not transfer ownership or operations until a negative declaration or a remedial action workplan has been approved by the department or the conditions of subsection e. of this section for remediation agreements have been met and until, in cases where a remedial action workplan is required to be approved or a remediation agreement has been approved, a remediation funding source, as required pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-3), has been established.

d. (1) Upon the submission of the results of either the preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, or remedial action, where applicable, which demonstrate that there are no discharged hazardous substances or hazardous wastes at the industrial establishment, or that have migrated from or are migrating from the industrial establishment, in violation of the applicable remediation regulations, the owner or operator may submit to the department for approval a proposed negative declaration as provided in subsection c. of this section.

(2) After the submission and review of the information submitted pursuant to a preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, or remedial action, as necessary, the department shall, within 45 days of submission of a complete and accurate negative declaration, approve the negative declaration, or inform the owner or operator of the industrial establishment that a remedial action workplan or additional remediation shall be required. The department shall approve a negative declaration by the issuance of a no further action letter.

e. The owner or operator of an industrial establishment, who has submitted a notice to the department pursuant to subsection a. of this section, may transfer ownership or operations of the industrial establishment prior to the approval of a negative declaration or remedial action workplan upon application to and approval by the department of a remediation agreement. The owner or operator requesting a remediation agreement shall submit the following documents: (1) an estimate of the cost of the remediation that is approved by the department; (2) a certification of the statutory liability of the owner or operator pursuant to P.L.1983, c.330 to perform and to complete a remediation of the industrial establishment in the manner and time limits provided by the department in regulation and consistent with all
applicable laws and regulations; however, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to be an admission of liability, or to impose liability on the owner or operator, pursuant to P.L.1976, c.141 (C.58:10-23.11 et seq.) or pursuant to any other statute or common law; (3) evidence of the establishment of a remediation funding source in an amount of the estimated cost of the remediation and in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-3); (4) a certification that the owner or operator is subject to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.330, including the liability for penalties for violating the act, defenses to liability and limitations thereon, the requirement to perform a remediation as required by the department, allowing the department access to the industrial establishment as provided in section 5 of P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-10), and the requirement to prepare and submit any document required by the department relevant to the remediation of the industrial establishment; and (5) evidence of the payment of all applicable fees required by the department.

The department may require in the remediation agreement that all plans for and results of the preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, and the implementation of the remedial action workplan, prepared or initiated subsequent to the transfer of ownership or operations, be submitted to the department, for review purposes only, at the completion of each phase of the remediation.

The department shall adopt regulations establishing the manner in which the documents required pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (5), inclusive, of this subsection shall be submitted. The department shall approve the application for the remediation agreement upon the complete and accurate submission of the documents required to be submitted pursuant to this subsection. The regulations shall include a sample form of the certifications. Approval of a remediation agreement shall not affect an owner's or operator's right to avail itself of the provisions of section 6 of P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-11), of section 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, or 18 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.13:1K-11.2, C.13:1K-11.3, C.13:1K-11.4, C.13:1K-11.5, C.13:1K-11.6 or C.13:1K-11.7), or of the other provisions of this section.

The owner or operator of the industrial establishment shall also provide written notification to the clerk of the municipality in which the industrial establishment is located, at the same time the information is submitted to the department, that upon written request, the owner or operator shall provide the information required to be submitted to the department pursuant to this subsection, to the municipality. The owner or operator shall provide the information to the municipality within five days after receipt of the written request.

f. An owner or operator of an industrial establishment may perform a preliminary assessment, site investigation, or remedial investigation for a soil, surface water, or groundwater remediation without the prior submission to or approval of the department, except as otherwise provided in a remediation agreement required pursuant to subsection e. of this section. However, the plans for and results of the preliminary assessment, site investigation, and remedial investigation may, at the discretion of the owner or operator, be submitted to the department for its review and approval at the completion of each phase of the remediation.

g. The soil, groundwater, and surface water remediation standard and the remedial action to be implemented on an industrial establishment shall be selected by the owner or operator, and reviewed and approved by the department, based upon the policies and criteria enumerated in section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12).

h. An owner or operator of an industrial establishment may implement a soil remedial action at an industrial establishment without prior department approval of the remedial action
workplan for the remediation of soil when the remedial action can reasonably be expected to be completed pursuant to standards, criteria, and time schedules established by the department, which schedules shall not exceed five years from the commencement of the implementation of the remedial action and if the owner or operator is implementing a soil remediation which meets the established minimum residential or nonresidential use soil remediation standards adopted by the department.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the closing of operations or the transfer of ownership or operations of an industrial establishment without the department's approval of a negative declaration, a remedial action workplan or a remediation agreement.

i. An owner or operator of an industrial establishment shall base the decision to select a remedial action based upon the standards and criteria set forth in section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12). When a remedial action selected by an owner or operator includes the use of an engineering or institutional controls that necessitates the recording of a notice pursuant to section 36 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-13), the owner or operator shall obtain the approval of the transferee of the industrial establishment.

At any time after the effective date of P.L.1993, c.139, an owner or operator may request the department to provide a determination as to whether a proposed remedial action is consistent with the standards and criteria set forth in section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12). The department shall make that determination based upon the standards and criteria set forth in that section. The department shall provide any such determination within 30 calendar days of the department's receipt of the request.

j. An owner or operator proposing to implement a soil remedial action other than one which is set forth in subsection h. of this section must receive department approval prior to implementation of the remedial action.

k. An owner or operator of an industrial establishment shall not implement a remedial action involving the remediation of groundwater or surface water without the prior review and approval by the department of a remedial action workplan.

l. Submissions of a preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, remedial action workplan, and the results of a remedial action shall be in a manner and form, and shall contain any relevant information relating to the remediation, as may be required by the department.

Upon receipt of a complete and accurate submission, the department shall review and approve or disapprove the submission in accordance with the review schedules established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.423 (C.13:1D-106). The owner or operator shall not be required to wait for a response by the department before continuing remediation activities, except as otherwise provided in this section. Upon completion of the remediation, the plans for and results of the preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, remedial action workplan, and remedial action and any other information required to be submitted as provided in section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12), that has not previously been submitted to the department, shall be submitted to the department for its review and approval.

The department shall review all information submitted to it by the owner or operator at the completion of the remediation to determine whether the actions taken were in compliance with rules and regulations of the department regarding remediation.

The department may review and approve or disapprove every remedial action workplan, no matter when submitted, to determine, in accordance with the criteria listed in subsection g. of section 35 of P.L.1993, c.139 (C.58:10B-12) if the remedial action that has occurred or that will occur is appropriate to meet the applicable health risk or environmental standards.
The department may order additional remediation activities at the industrial establishment, or offsite where necessary, or may require the submission of additional information, where (a) the department determines that the remediation activities undertaken were not in compliance with the applicable rules or regulations of the department; (b) all documents required to be submitted to the department were not submitted or, if submitted, were inaccurate, or deficient; or (c) discharged hazardous substances or hazardous wastes remain at the industrial establishment, or have migrated or are migrating offsite, at levels or concentrations or in a manner that is in violation of the applicable health risk or environmental standards. Upon a finding by the department that the remediation conducted at the industrial establishment was in compliance with all applicable regulations, that no hazardous substances or hazardous wastes remain at the industrial establishment in a manner that is in violation of the applicable health risk or environmental standards, and that all hazardous substances or hazardous wastes that migrated from the industrial establishment have been remediated in conformance with the applicable health risk or environmental standards, the department shall approve the remediation for that industrial establishment by the issuance of a no further action letter.

5. Section 8 of P.L.1983, c.330 (C.13:1K-13) is amended to read as follows:


8. Failure of the transferor to perform a remediation and obtain department approval thereof as required pursuant to the provisions of this act is grounds for voiding the sale or transfer of an industrial establishment or any real property utilized in connection therewith by the transferee, entitles the transferee to recover damages from the transferor, and renders the owner or operator of the industrial establishment strictly liable, without regard to fault, for all remediation costs and for all direct and indirect damages resulting from the failure to implement the remedial action workplan. A transferee may not act to void the sale or transfer of an industrial establishment or any real property except upon providing notice to the transferor of the failure to perform and affording the transferor a reasonable amount of time to comply with the provisions of this act. A transferee may bring an action in Superior Court to void the sale or transfer of an industrial establishment or any real property or to recover damages from the transferor, pursuant to this section.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.