

WAC 173-446-370 Allowance price containment reserve account.

(1) Ecology shall maintain an allowance price containment reserve account.

(a) Allowances in the allowance price containment reserve have no vintage and are therefore eligible to be submitted for compliance at any time.

(b) Allowances purchased from the allowance price containment reserve are placed directly into the purchaser's compliance account.

(c) On January 1, 2023, ecology shall place into the allowance price containment reserve account:

(i) Five percent of the allowances in the annual allowance budgets for each year of the first compliance period; and

(ii) Five percent of the allowances in the annual allowance budgets for each year of the second compliance period, as determined without taking into account the increase in the allowance budgets caused by the addition of waste-to-energy facilities as covered entities in the second compliance period.

(2) Ecology shall hold separate auctions for allowances from the allowance price containment reserve:

(a) When the settlement price in the preceding auction of current and prior vintage allowances reaches the Tier 1 price for allowances in the allowance price containment reserve;

(b) When new covered and opt-in entities enter the program and allowances from the emissions containment reserve account are exhausted; and

(c) Once each year before the compliance deadline.

(3) Only covered entities and opt-in entities may participate in allowance price containment reserve auctions. General market participants may not participate in allowance price containment reserve auctions.

(4) Allowance price containment reserve auctions shall follow the procedures described in WAC 173-446-310 through 173-446-362, except:

(a) The purchase limits in WAC 173-446-330 do not apply to allowance price containment reserve auctions.

(b) In place of an auction floor price, there are two tiers of allowance prices at which bidders may bid:

(i) Tier 1 price for 2023 shall be \$46.05 increased by five percent plus the rate of inflation as measured by the most recently available 12 months of the consumer price index for all urban consumers as of the first business day in December of 2022.

(ii) Tier 2 price for 2023 shall be \$59.17 increased by five percent plus the rate of inflation as measured by the most recently available 12 months of the consumer price index for all urban consumers as of the first business day in December of 2022.

(iii) The allowance price containment reserve tier prices for a year after 2023 shall be the allowance price containment tier prices for the prior calendar year increased annually by five percent plus the rate of inflation as measured by the most recently available 12 months of the consumer price index for all urban consumers as of the first business day in December of the prior year.

(iv) Beginning in 2022, on the first business day in December of each year, ecology shall announce the allowance price containment reserve tier prices for the next year.

(c) Bidders in an allowance price containment reserve auction may submit multiple bids. Each bid must be at either the Tier 1 price or the Tier 2 price.

(d) Tier 1 allowances shall be sold first, then Tier 2 allowances. The auction of Tier 1 allowances shall continue until all Tier 1 allowances are sold or all bids are filled, whichever occurs first. If any Tier 1 allowances remain, ecology will award them to bidders for Tier 2 allowances at the Tier 1 price using a random number selection process that assigns random numbers to each lot bid and awards Tier 1 allowances starting with the lowest random number until all Tier 1 allowances are sold. The subsequent auction of Tier 2 allowances shall continue until all Tier 2 allowances are sold or all bids are filled, whichever occurs first.

(e) Ecology shall reject bids or portions of bids, starting with the smallest of the registered entity's Tier 2 bids, until the total of the registered entity's bids remaining would, if accepted, not result in contravention of a holding limit.

(f) The registered entity's actual maximum bid value is determined as follows:

(i) Multiply the Tier 1 bid price by the total number of allowances the registered entity proposed to purchase at that bid price.

(ii) Multiply the Tier 2 bid price by the total number of allowances the registered entity proposed to purchase at that bid price.

(iii) The registered entity's actual maximum bid value is the sum of the results obtained in (i) of this subsection added to the results obtained in (ii) of this subsection.

(g) If the actual maximum bid value of a registered entity's bids exceeds the value of the registered entity's bid guarantee, ecology shall, starting with the registered entity's Tier 2 bids, remove enough lots, such that the remaining bids would not result in the actual maximum bid value exceeding the value of the bid guarantee.

(h) If the sum of the bids accepted for a tier is greater than the number of allowances in the tier, ecology will follow the process in WAC 173-446-357(5) to distribute the allowances from each tier.

(i) After a sale, ecology will transfer purchased allowances directly to each purchaser's compliance account.

(j) Allowances remaining unsold at the end of an allowance price containment reserve auction remain in the allowance price containment reserve to be available for sale at the next allowance price containment reserve auction.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70A.65 RCW. WSR 24-05-080 (Order 23-02), § 173-446-370, filed 2/21/24, effective 3/23/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 70A.65.220. WSR 22-20-056 (Order 21-06), § 173-446-370, filed 9/29/22, effective 10/30/22.]