

**WAC 208-680-610 What are the department's examination powers under the act?**

(1) For the purposes of determining compliance with chapter 18.44 RCW and chapter 208-680 WAC, the department may examine, wherever located, the records used in the business of every licensee and any person subject to the act.

(2) The department may make necessary inquiry of the business or personal affairs of each person identified in subsection (1) of this section for the purposes of determining compliance with the act and these rules. In conducting examinations, the department may:

(a) Access, during reasonable business hours, the offices and places of business, books, accounts, papers, files, records, including electronic records, computers, safes, and vaults of all such persons. Access must be given to both the trust account records and general business operating account records;

(b) Interview or take sworn testimony of any person subject to RCW 18.44.021, or any employee or independent contractor of any person subject to RCW 18.44.021;

(c) Interview or take sworn testimony of any principal party or agent to the transaction;

(d) Require the filing of statements in writing by any person, under oath or otherwise, as to all facts and circumstances concerning the matters under examination;

(e) Copy, or request to be copied, any items described in this section;

(f) Analyze and review any items described in this section;

(g) Require assistance, as necessary, from any employee or person subject to the act;

(h) Conduct meetings and exit reviews with owners, management, officers, or employees of any person subject to the act;

(i) Prepare and deliver, as necessary, a report of examination requiring a response from the recipient; and

(j) Retain attorneys, appraisers, independent certified public accountants, or other professionals and specialists as examiners, auditors, or investigators. The cost of the services provided must be paid by the person who is the subject of the examination or investigation.

(3) The department may make examinations as frequently as it deems necessary or appropriate; and

(4) The department may charge an hourly fee for an examination. See RCW 18.44.121 (1) (e).

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 43.320 RCW, RCW 18.44.410. WSR 16-08-028, § 208-680-610, filed 3/30/16, effective 4/30/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.320.040 and 18.44.410. WSR 13-24-022, § 208-680-610, filed 11/22/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.320.040 and chapter 18.44 RCW (as amended by 2010 c 34). WSR 10-20-124, § 208-680-610, filed 10/5/10, effective 11/5/10.]