

## §2Q1.4

### Commentary

**Statutory Provisions:** 33 U.S.C. §§ 403, 406, 407, 411, 1319(c)(1), (c)(2), 1415(b), 1907, 1908; 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(1)–(4). For additional statutory provision(s), *see* Appendix A (Statutory Index).

#### Application Notes:

1. “**Recordkeeping offense**” includes both recordkeeping and reporting offenses. The term is to be broadly construed as including failure to report discharges, releases, or emissions where required; the giving of false information; failure to file other required reports or provide necessary information; and failure to prepare, maintain, or provide records as prescribed.
2. If the offense involved mishandling of nuclear material, apply §2M6.2 (Violation of Other Federal Atomic Energy Agency Statutes, Rules, and Regulations) rather than this guideline.
3. Subsection (b)(1) assumes a discharge or emission into the environment resulting in actual environmental contamination. A wide range of conduct, involving the handling of different quantities of materials with widely differing propensities, potentially is covered.
4. Subsection (b)(2) applies to offenses where the public health is seriously endangered.
5. Subsection (b)(3) provides an enhancement where a public disruption, evacuation or cleanup at substantial expense has been required.
6. Subsection (b)(4) applies where the offense involved violation of a permit, or where there was a failure to obtain a permit when one was required.

**Background:** This section parallels §2Q1.2 but applies to offenses involving substances which are not pesticides and are not designated as hazardous or toxic.

*Historical  
Note*

Effective November 1, 1987. Amended effective November 1, 1989 (amendment 205); November 1, 2018 (amendment 813); November 1, 2025 (amendment 836).

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## §2Q1.4. Tampering or Attempted Tampering with a Public Water System; Threatening to Tamper with a Public Water System

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(a) Base Offense Level (Apply the greatest):

- (1) **26**;
- (2) **22**, if the offense involved (A) a threat to tamper with a public water system; and (B) any conduct evidencing an intent to carry out the threat; or
- (3) **16**, if the offense involved a threat to tamper with a public water system but did not involve any conduct evidencing an intent to carry out the threat.