



TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY

Guidance for Reporting Toxic Chemical Categories

Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) requires certain facilities manufacturing, processing, or otherwise using listed toxic chemicals to report the annual quantity of such chemicals entering each environmental medium. Such facilities must also report pollution prevention data for such chemicals, pursuant to section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act, 42 U.S.C. 13106. EPCRA section 313 is also known as the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

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DISCLAIMER

This guidance document is intended to assist industry with EPCRA section 313 reporting for toxic chemical categories. In addition to providing an overview of aspects of the statutory and regulatory requirements of the EPCRA section 313 program, this document also provides recommendations to assist industry with EPCRA reporting. These recommendations do not supersede any statutory or regulatory requirements, are subject to change, and are not independently binding on either EPA or covered facilities. Additionally, if a conflict exists between guidance on this site and the statutory or regulatory requirements, the conflict must be resolved in favor of the statute or regulation.

Although EPA encourages industry to consider these recommendations, in reviewing this document, industry should be aware that these recommendations were developed to address common circumstances at typical facilities. The circumstances at a specific facility may significantly differ from those contemplated in the development of this document. Thus, individual facilities may find that the recommendations provided in this document are inapplicable to their processes or circumstances, and that alternative approaches or information are more accurate and/or more appropriate for meeting the statutory and regulatory requirements of EPCRA section 313. To that end, industry should use facility specific information and process knowledge, where available, to meet the requirements of EPCRA section 313. EPCRA section 313 also provides that, in the absence of such readily available data, a reporting facility may make reasonable estimates to meet those EPCRA section 313 requirements. Facilities are encouraged to contact the Agency with any additional or clarifying questions about the recommendations in this document, or if the facility believes that EPA has incorrectly characterized a particular process or recommendation.

Additional guidance documents, including industry specific and chemical specific guidance documents, are also available on TRI's GuideME website:

https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/guideme_ext/f?p=guideme:gd-list

SECTION 1.0 All Compounds in a Listed Chemical Category are Aggregated for Threshold Determinations

Toxic chemical categories listed under EPCRA section 313 require a different approach when making threshold determinations and release and other waste management calculations. For a chemical that is included in a listed metal compound category, the total weight of that chemical compound, not just the parent metal, is used in making threshold determinations. A facility will need to calculate the total weight of all compounds that are in the category, sum the amounts involved throughout the facility in each threshold activity, and compare the totals to the applicable thresholds. A non-PBT compound in a listed chemical category that is present in a mixture below the *de minimis* concentration, based on the total weight of the compound, is exempt from threshold calculations under Section 1. Again, all individual members of a compound category must be totaled to determine if that compound category has exceeded the *de minimis* concentration in a mixture.

SECTION 2.0 Make Threshold Determinations for Listed Toxic Chemicals Separately from the Listed Chemical Category

The section 313 list contains some listed substances that are also members of a listed chemical category. Threshold determinations for a specifically listed toxic chemical are calculated separately from the threshold determinations for the chemical category. For example, 2-methoxyethanol, which is specifically listed on the section 313 list, is also a glycol ether compound but is not included in the glycol ether compound category for purposes of section 313 reporting. Because the chemical is specifically listed, a facility must make a threshold determination for 2-methoxyethanol and a separate threshold determination for all other glycol ethers meeting the criteria for that chemical category that are not specifically listed under section 313.

SECTION 3.0 Calculate Releases and Other Waste Management Based on Parent Metal for Metal Compound Categories

Once a reporting threshold is met for a metal compound, releases and other waste management of compounds are calculated based on the pounds of the parent metal released or otherwise managed as waste rather than the total weight of the compound. EPA adopted this approach because of the difficulty in calculating releases of potentially numerous compounds within a metal compound category, recognizing that methods and data for monitoring the parent metal often exist while those for the compound(s) rarely will.

SECTION 4.0 Optional Form R Submission for Parent Metal and Associated Metal Compound Category

If both the parent metal and associated metal compound category exceed their respective thresholds, one Form R, covering all releases and other waste management of the parent metal from activities involving both the chemical and the chemical category, may be filed. If a facility opts to submit a single combined Form R, it should report as the metal compound category. Beginning with Reporting Year 2018, a facility must indicate if it is filing a combined form for an elemental metal and a metal compound containing the same elemental metal. This option, preferred by EPA, is available to facilities, although separate reports may be filed if desired.

For example, if a facility processes 30,000 pounds of lead and otherwise uses 13,000 pounds of lead oxide, the facility could submit one Form R for lead compounds. On this Form R, the facility would report all activities involving lead and lead compounds and include all releases and other waste

management of the lead and lead compounds. As described in Section 3.0, the releases and other waste management quantities reported are calculated based on the pounds of the parent metal portion.

SECTION 5.0 Calculate Releases and Other Waste Management Based on Nitrate Ion for Nitrate Compounds

Once a reporting threshold is met for the water dissociable nitrate compound category, releases and other waste management estimates are calculated based on the pounds of the nitrate ion in aqueous solution rather than the total weight of the compound. EPA adopted this approach because most monitoring data available only measure the dissociated nitrate ion released and not the amount of the total nitrate compounds from which the nitrate ion dissociated. Reporting the amount of total water dissociable nitrate compound in wastes would be complicated when more than one substance contributes to the nitrate ion content of the waste and when the nitrate compound is converted to a different substance due to waste treatment or other processes.

SECTION 6.0 General TRI Reporting Instructions

For general instruction regarding compliance with EPCRA section 313 requirements and form completion, please see the most recent version of the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Forms and Instructions, available at: https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/guideme_ext/f?p=guideme:rfi-home.