

# U.S. EPA TRI Information Center Services, Common Questions, and Resources

TRI Spring 2011 Webinar

May 10, 2011

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# Agenda

- ▶ TRI Information Center Services
- ▶ FAQ Knowledgebase Demonstration
- ▶ Common Questions Received at the TRI Information Center
  - General TRI
  - Applicability
  - Release and Waste Management
  - Form Completion
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Questions

# Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP & Oil Information Center

Programs Covered

Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)

Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund)

Brownfields

Release Notification

Risk Management Program (RMP or CAA 112(r))

Oil Pollution Prevention: Spill Prevention and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan & Facility Response Plan (FRP)

## How to Contact the TRI Information Center

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National Toll Free (800) 424-9346  
Washington, DC Area (703) 412-9810  
TTY National Toll Free (800) 553-7672  
TTY Washington, DC Area (703) 412-3323

### Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET

### Extended Hours of Operation (May, June, July):

Monday – Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET

[www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter)

# TRI Information Center Stakeholders

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## TRI Information Center Services

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- ▶ Provide clarifications on regulatory and reporting requirements
- ▶ Assist filers with form completion
- ▶ Support locating, understanding, and utilizing data from various dissemination tools
- ▶ Administer an online searchable knowledgebase providing answers to the most frequently asked questions

# Other TRI Help Desks

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- ▶ Central Data Exchange (CDX) Help Desk
  - Can assist TRI-MEweb Preparers and Certifiers with CDX technical issues, such as registration for or access to CDX accounts, CDX user IDs and passwords, the status of reports submitted via CDX, access to CDX data flows, and step-by-step TRI-MEweb submission and receipt
- ▶ TRI Data Processing Center (DPC)
  - Can answer questions about the processing and status of Electronic Signature Agreements (ESAs); verify EPA's receipt of facility reports; address TRI-MEweb technical problems (e.g., Data Quality Alerts (DQAs), Notices of Significant Errors (NOSEs), and critical errors) and technical software questions related to form submissions; and answer questions about Electronic Facility Data Profiles (e-FDPs)
- ▶ [www.epa.gov/tri/contacts/contacts.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/contacts/contacts.htm)
- ▶ [FAQ #21948](#)


# Common Resources Used at the TRI Information Center

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- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#)
- ▶ [Question and Answer Documents](#)
- ▶ [Industry-Specific Guidance Documents](#)
- ▶ [Chemical-Specific Guidance Documents](#)
- ▶ [Code of Federal Regulations](#)
- ▶ [Federal Registers](#)
- ▶ [Interpretative Memos](#)
- ▶ [TRI Threshold Screening Tool](#)
- ▶ [TRI-MEweb](#)
- ▶ [Monthly Report Questions](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)



# FAQ Knowledgebase



▶

[Advanced Search](#)

**Frequent Questions**

- [General TRI](#)
- [Reporting Assistance](#)

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

## Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program


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**Most Popular Topics**

	Viewed
1. <a href="#">What is the Toxics Release Inventory?</a>	2104
2. <a href="#">What if I discover that I should have been reporting to TRI in previous years?</a>	905
3. <a href="#">If a facility has a chemical in storage but does not process or otherwise use it during the reporting year, is the owner/operator subject to reporting?</a>	763
4. <a href="#">What are the recordkeeping requirements for TRI facilities?</a>	637
5. <a href="#">How has TRI changed over time?</a>	522

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## Extension to the Reporting Deadline

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- ▶ Q: Are there any extensions that a facility can get to the July 1<sup>st</sup> reporting deadline for filing the Form R?
- ▶ A: TRI mandates that covered facilities report to EPA by July 1 of each year. On occasion, however, EPA has extended the date for submitting the Form R. If EPA chooses to extend the deadline, facilities should verify with their state representative that the state will also extend its reporting deadline. No extensions are ever made on an individual facility basis. If EPA extends the deadline, a notice of this is published in the Federal Register.
- ▶ [FAQ #14103](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [FAQ #23817](#)
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.7

## Negative Reporting

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- ▶ Q: What are the TRI recordkeeping requirements for facilities that do not exceed thresholds?
- ▶ A: If a facility does not exceed an activity threshold for any listed toxic chemical, is not in a covered SIC code, or does not have ten or more full time employees, it is **not required under TRI to maintain any records** associated with its uses, releases, or other waste management activities involving listed toxic chemicals. Such facilities, however, **may want to keep records** of the amounts of listed toxic chemicals they manufacture, process, or otherwise use in order to defend against any claim that they failed to report.
- ▶ FAQ #[20062](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - FAQ #[15169](#), [32384](#)

## Fees

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- ▶ Q: Are there any fees associated with submitting TRI forms?
- ▶ A: Under TRI and its implementing federal regulations, there are no federal fees or taxes for submitting a Form R or Form A to EPA or the state. However, states may have similar reporting programs or other state requirements that associate fees or taxes with the submission of TRI forms. A directory of state TRI program contacts and Web sites is available at the following URL:  
[www.epa.gov/tri/stateprograms/state\\_programs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/stateprograms/state_programs.htm)
- ▶ FAQ #[14106](#)

## Change in Company Name or Ownership

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- ▶ Q: A facility and its parent company both changed their names after the reporting year. What names should be reported by the owner/operator on the Form Rs covering the reporting year?
- ▶ A: The facility should report the names used by the facility and parent company during that reporting year. When the owner/operator submits Form Rs for the next reporting year, these reports should reflect the names used by the facility and parent company during the new reporting year (however, the TRI Facility Identification number will not change).
- ▶ FAQ #[23305](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - FAQ #[14914](#), [14917](#), [15721](#), [24738](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #626

## Employee Threshold

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- ▶ Q: How should employee thresholds be calculated?
- ▶ A: When making the full-time employee determination, the facility must consider all **paid vacation** and **sick leave** used as hours worked by each employee. In addition, EPA interprets the hours worked by an employee to include **paid holidays**, as well as work done on a **seasonal or temporary basis**. To determine the number of full-time employees working for your facility, add up the hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, including **contract employees and sales and support staff** working for the facility, and divide the total by 2,000 hours. The result is the number of full-time employees. In other words, if the total number of hours worked by all employees for your facility is **20,000 hours** or more, your facility meets the ten employee threshold.
- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.8
- ▶ Additional Resources
  - [FAQ #15010](#)
  - [Information Center Monthly Report Question: February 2007](#)
  - Memo, Doa to Falkenberg, May 6, 1998

## Covered NAICS Codes

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- ▶ Q: How can I determine if my facility is in a covered NAICS code?
- ▶ A: If you are not sure what your NAICS code is, consult the following resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.8-9, Table I
  - Crosswalk between SIC codes and corresponding NAICS codes at [www.census.gov/epcd/naics02](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02)
  - Crosswalk between 2002 and 2007 NAICS codes at [www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html](http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html)
  - NAICS Helpline: (888) 756-2427
  - FAQ #[15186](#), [16681](#), [21087](#), [23888](#)

# Coincidental Manufacture

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- ▶ Q: Are toxic chemicals produced coincidentally covered under an activity threshold?
- ▶ A: Yes. Manufacturing is not limited to intentional manufacturing; it also **includes coincidental manufacture or inadvertent manufacture**. In general, anytime one metal compound has been converted to another metal compound, the facility must count the new metal compound towards the manufacturing threshold. The fact that the parent metal is the same in both compounds does not negate the fact that a new metal compound has been manufactured.
- ▶ [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #154](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#), p.12-13, 38-39



## Repackaging as a Process Activity

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- ▶ Q: Is repackaging a TRI toxic chemical considered processing?
- ▶ A: Repackaging toxic chemicals in hazardous waste may be covered by the processing threshold. For an activity to be considered processing under TRI, the toxic chemical must be prepared for distribution in commerce. If the listed toxic chemical is **not removed** or taken from the smallest unit, but is simply placed in a larger container while the contents remain in the smaller container, then the listed toxic chemical is not considered to be repackaged. If the listed toxic chemical is taken out of the smallest unit container and is transferred to another container, it is considered repackaged.
- ▶ FAQ #[19162](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.12-13, 38-39
  - FAQ #[15385](#), [19153](#), [19161](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #135

## Processing vs. Otherwise Use

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- ▶ Q: What is the difference between processing and otherwise use?
- ▶ A: Process implies **incorporation** into a product for **distribution into commerce** where benefit is gained by the transfer, even if there is no direct monetary gain; the function or intent of the toxic chemical is dependent upon becoming a part of a product. Otherwise use implies non-incorporation; the function of the toxic chemical is not dependent upon becoming a part of a product.
- ▶ [FAQ #15078](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.12-13, 38-39
  - [FAQ #17837](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers Addendum](#): Q&A #32, 33, Directive #7

## Addition of National Toxicology Program Chemicals

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- ▶ Q: Has EPA recently made any changes to the TRI toxic chemical list?
- ▶ A: On November 26, 2010, EPA expanded the TRI toxic chemical list by **adding 16 chemicals** classified as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen” by the National Toxicology Program’s (NTP) Report on Carcinogens. After reviewing the NTP’s report, EPA believes that these 16 chemicals meet the EPCRA §313(d)(2)(B) statutory listing criteria because they can reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer in humans. Twelve of the chemicals were listed individually, while the remaining four were added to the polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs) category. This rulemaking to expand the TRI toxic chemical list is a part of EPA’s ongoing efforts to provide communities with more complete information on chemicals. The revised toxic chemical list is effective starting with reports due July 1, 2012, for Reporting Year 2011.
- ▶ FAQ #[32424](#)

# Hydrogen Sulfide

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- ▶ Q: Do facilities have to report for hydrogen sulfide?
- ▶ A: Currently, the administrative stay of the TRI reporting requirements for hydrogen sulfide remains in place; therefore, EPA does not require facilities to file TRI reports for hydrogen sulfide. However, on February 26, 2010, EPA announced its intent to consider lifting the administrative stay (75 FR 8889). Upon further technical evaluation, EPA has determined that **hydrogen sulfide can reasonably be expected to cause chronic health effects in humans and significant adverse effects in aquatic organisms**. Based on these findings, EPA believes there is no basis for continuing the administrative stay of the reporting requirements for hydrogen sulfide and that the **administrative stay should, therefore, be lifted**.
- ▶ FAQ #[23112](#)

## Chemical Qualifier - Fume or Dust

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- ▶ Q: A covered facility processes aluminum and zinc, which are both listed under TRI with the qualifier “fume or dust.” Is this processing operation subject to reporting?
- ▶ A: If the processing of these substances generates (i.e., manufactures) any fume or dust or if the two substances were processed or otherwise used, at any time, as a fume or dust, the activities would be reportable under TRI. The manufacturing, processing, or otherwise use of these substances in fume or dust form would be subject to threshold determinations.
- ▶ FAQ #[23732](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.II-1, II-2
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #429, 430
  - FAQ #[22031](#)
  - Memo, Doa to Strieter, September 14, 1999

## Chemical Qualifier - Ammonia (Aqueous v. Anhydrous)

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- ▶ Q: Considering the chemical qualifier for ammonia, how should threshold determinations be calculated?
- ▶ A: If anhydrous ammonia is manufactured, processed, or otherwise used, then **100 percent of the anhydrous ammonia** must be counted when determining whether an activity threshold has been exceeded. When a facility manufactures, processes, or otherwise uses aqueous ammonia, it is conducting a threshold activity on 100 percent of the aqueous ammonia. However, the facility owner or operator counts only **10 percent of the total aqueous ammonia** involved in a covered activity when making threshold determinations.
- ▶ FAQ #[20672](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.25, II-1, II-2
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #451, 449, Directive #8
  - [Guidance for Reporting Aqueous Ammonia](#)

## Chemical Qualifier - Acid Aerosols

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- ▶ Q: How are threshold determinations calculated for chemicals with a qualifier of “acid aerosols?”
- ▶ A: When solutions of sulfuric acid and hydrochloric acid are **aerosolized** the manufacture of a listed chemical (sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid aerosols) has occurred. This is a result of the qualifier to the sulfuric acid and hydrochloric acid listings, which excludes non-aerosol forms and limits the reporting to aerosol forms only.
- ▶ [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #402](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions: p.II-1, II-2](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #407, 408](#)
  - [Guidance for Reporting Hydrochloric Acid](#)
  - [Guidance for Reporting Sulfuric Acid](#)

## Closed-Loop Reuse Systems

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- ▶ Q: How are threshold determinations calculated for reuse operations such as closed-loop refrigeration systems?
- ▶ A: In such reuse systems, the amount of listed toxic chemical which must be applied toward the otherwise use threshold would include any quantity added as a result of **start-up or total replacement** of the contents of the reuse operation. If a reuse system is completely empty and is started up during the year, a facility must base its threshold determination on the total amount initially needed to charge the system plus any amount which is subsequently added to the system during the year.
- ▶ FAQ #[20673](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.24



# Metal Compounds

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- ▶ Q: How are threshold determinations made for metal-containing compounds?
- ▶ A: **Threshold** quantities for metal compounds are based on the **total weight** of the metal compound, not just the metal portion of the metal compound. The threshold quantities are determined by adding up the total weight of all metal compounds containing the same parent metal. However, **release and other waste management** calculations are based solely on the **weight of the parent metal** portion of the metal compounds. Note that there are a few metal compounds where the parent metal is separately listed, and therefore, separate threshold calculations would need to be conducted.
- ▶ FAQ #[20674](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.25, 27
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #111, 417

# Mixtures

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- ▶ Q: How are threshold determinations calculated for mixtures when only the lower bound concentration of the TRI toxic chemical is known?
- ▶ A: The facility should subtract out the percentage of any other known components of the mixture to determine what a reasonable “maximum” percentage of the TRI toxic chemical could be. The facility then should use the midpoint of the “minimum” and “maximum” percentages in order to determine quantity of the TRI toxic chemical to apply toward the threshold. If no other information is available, the facility should assume that the “maximum” is 100 percent.
- ▶ [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #104](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions: p.26, 28](#)
  - [FAQ #14963](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #103](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers Addendum: Directive #4](#)

## Articles Exemption

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- ▶ Q: Does the article exemption apply to flat rolled sheet metals, if they are used in operations that typically produce scrap but no release?
- ▶ A: Assuming the scrap metal pieces are recognizable as the original piece, the article exemption does apply to these metals if the forming process caused 0.5 pounds or less of releases of a listed toxic chemical from all like items or the items retain the thickness of sheet metal in whole or in part. **Once an operation is performed on a metal that causes a release that is not recycled and that exceeds 0.5 pounds for the reporting year (for example, from operations such as heating, grinding, or welding), the article exemption no longer applies**, and releases must be reported when listed chemicals in a sheet metal are processed in quantities greater than the processing threshold.
- ▶ FAQ #[14801](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.16-17
  - FAQ #[15011](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #347, 353, 382, Directive #1
  - Memo, Doa to Henry, October 2, 2000

## De Minimis Exemption

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- ▶ Q: If a listed toxic chemical is manufactured as a byproduct in a wastestream at a concentration below the toxic chemical's de minimis level, would a facility be required to consider the amount present in the wastestream as part of threshold calculations?
- ▶ A: Yes. This de minimis exemption **applies solely to non-PBT chemicals** in mixtures. EPA's long-standing interpretation has been that mixtures **do not include waste**. Also, generally, de minimis does not apply to listed toxic chemicals that a facility **manufactures**. The de minimis exemption cannot be applied to listed toxic chemicals manufactured as a byproduct.
- ▶ [FAQ #15617](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.17-21
  - [FAQ #14952](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers Addendum](#): Q&A #43, Directive #2

## Release Monitoring

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- ▶ Q: Do facilities have to **conduct** specific types of **monitoring** or use specific **data sources** to make release and waste management calculations?
- ▶ A: EPCRA requires a facility to use **readily available data** (including monitoring data) collected pursuant to other provisions of law, or, where such data are not readily available, “reasonable estimates” of the amounts involved. If available data (including monitoring data) are known to be nonrepresentative, facilities must make **reasonable estimates** using the **best readily available information**. No additional monitoring or measurement of the quantities or concentrations of any TRI chemical released into the environment beyond that required under other provisions of law or regulation or as part of routine plant operations is required for the purpose of completing Form R.
- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.44-45
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #468, 469, 470

## Estimating Fugitive Emissions

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- ▶ Q: How should I **calculate** fugitive air emissions?
- ▶ A: Reasonable estimates of the amounts released should be made using **published emission factors**, material **balance calculations**, or **engineering calculations**. You may not use emission factors or calculations to estimate releases if more accurate data are available.
- ▶ Reporting Forms & Instructions: p.45
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #480, 481, 491
  - Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors: Emissions Factors/ AP-42, Emissions Factors Software & Tools, Locating & Estimating Documents

## Recycling vs. Direct Reuse

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- ▶ Q: What is the difference between **recycling** and **direct reuse** for purposes of TRI reporting?
- ▶ A: EPA considers toxic chemicals “recycled” when the chemicals are recovered for reuse. If toxic chemicals are directly reused, without any intervening **reclamation** or **recovery steps**, the toxic chemicals are not considered recycled for Form R reporting purposes. Reclamation or recovery would not include **simple phase changing** of the toxic chemical before further reuse (e.g., simple remelting of scrap metal). A reclamation and recovery step, however, would include changing the relative amounts of the chemicals in an alloy. A recovery step would include removing toxic chemicals from a **pollution control device** or removing contaminants from the toxic chemical after it has been used and can **no longer be used for its intended purpose**.
- ▶ FAQ #[22750](#); Memo, Dombrowski to Axtell, June 21, 2001
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - FAQ #[17348](#), [20139](#)
  - [Waste Management Activities](#)

## Energy Recovery vs. Treatment for Destruction

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- ▶ Q: How does incineration or **treatment for destruction** differ from **energy recovery** when reporting on the Form R?
- ▶ A: To claim that a reported TRI chemical sent off-site is used for the purposes of energy recovery and not for treatment for destruction, the chemical must have a **significant heating value** and must be combusted in an **energy recovery unit** such as an industrial boiler, furnace, or kiln.
- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.54, 61
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #568
  - Memo, Doa to Lopes, June 7, 1999



# Metals and Metal Compounds

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- ▶ Q: How are **metals** and **metal category compounds** managed as waste?
- ▶ A: Metals and metal category compounds will be managed in waste either by being **released** (including disposed) or by being **recycled**. Metals have no heat value and thus **cannot be combusted for energy recovery** and **cannot be treated** because they cannot be destroyed.
- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.54
- ▶ Additional Resources
  - ▶ [FAQ #20116](#)
  - ▶ [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #395, 584, 590
  - ▶ Memo, Harman to Colt, March 11, 1999

## POTW Transfers

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- ▶ Q: A facility sends a **wastestream** to a POTW, if the owner or operator has knowledge that a specific quantity of the chemical will be **treated for destruction**, and the rest **released to surface water**, how should this be reported?
- ▶ A: The owner or operator should **divide the amount** reported in section 6.1 between sections **8.1 (quantity released)** and **8.7 (quantity treated off site)**, as appropriate. The total quantity of a toxic chemical reported in section 8.1 of the Form R should **include any amount of the toxic chemical that was sent to a POTW but ultimately released without being treated for destruction**.
- ▶ [Information Center Monthly Report Question: February 2003](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.49-51, 66-67
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #561, 590

# POTW Transfers within TRI-MEweb

Waste Management Description	Current Reporting Year	Quantity (in pounds)
8.1a) Total on-site disposal to Class I Underground Injection Wells, RCRA Subtitle C landfills, and other landfills	NA	
8.1b) Total other on-site disposal or other releases	5.54	
8.1c) Total off-site disposal to Class I Underground Injection Wells, RCRA Subtitle C landfills, and other landfills	0	
8.1d) Total other off-site disposal or other releases	200	
8.2) Quantity used for energy recovery onsite <sup>†</sup>	NA	
8.3) Quantity used for energy recovery offsite	NA	
8.4) Quantity recycled onsite <sup>†</sup>	NA	
8.5) Quantity recycled offsite	NA	
8.6) Quantity treated onsite <sup>†</sup>	NA	
8.7) Quantity treated offsite	0	

# POTW Transfers within TRI-MEweb

Section	1. Reported Value	2. Numeric Basis	3. Quantity from Catastrophic or one-time events	4. Percent Ultimately Otherwise Disposed or Released	Calculated Value (Col 2 - Col 3) ÷ Col 4
POTW Transfers (Section 6.1)	200	200	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<a href="#">100 %</a> click link to edit value	200
<b>8.1 d Calculated Subtotal:</b>					<b>200</b>

Ultimate Disposition of Transfer	Percent
Treated	<input type="text" value="50"/> %
Disposed in Class I UIC or Landfills	<input type="text" value="0"/> %
Otherwise Disposed or Released	<input type="text" value="50"/> %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b> %

## NA vs. Zero

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- ▶ Q: When should I report **zero** in Section 8 versus **NA**?
- ▶ A: You should enter a **numeric value** in the relevant sections of Section 8 if your facility has released, treated, combusted for energy recovery, or recycled **any quantity** of that chemical during the reporting year. If the aggregate quantity of that chemical was **equal to or less than 0.5 lb** for a particular waste management method, you should enter the value zero (unless the chemical is a PBT) in the relevant section. If there has been **no on-site or off-site** treatment, combustion for energy recovery, or recycling on the waste stream containing the chemical, then you should enter NA in the relevant section.
- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.41-42, 49, 64-65
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #506, 516, 523
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers Addendum](#): Q&A #72

## Catastrophic Events

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- ▶ Q: What is considered a **one-time catastrophic event** that should be reported in **Section 8.8**?
- ▶ A: Releases reported in Section 8.8 of the Form R should be the result of a **remedial action**, a **catastrophic event**, or a **one-time release not** associated with normal or **routine production processes**. In general, pipes have an expected lifespan. If a pipe ruptures during its expected lifespan for no known reason, the release should be considered a one-time release not associated with normal or routine production processes and should be reported in Section 8.8. However, if the pipe bursts because it was in use after its expected lifespan, it should not be considered a one-time release because it should have been replaced.
- ▶ [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #598](#)
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [Reporting Forms & Instructions: p.67-68](#)
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers: Q&A #520, 540, 592](#)
  - [Information Center Monthly Report Question: April 2006](#)

## Production Ratio

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- ▶ Q: What is the **production ratio** or **activity index**?
- ▶ A: The production ratio provides a ratio of reporting year production to prior year production based on a **variable** other than production that is the **primary influence** on the **quantity** of the **reported chemical** recycled, used for energy recovery, treated, disposed, or released. The ratio must be reported to the nearest tenths of hundredths place.
- ▶ [Reporting Forms & Instructions](#): p.68-69
- ▶ Additional Resources:
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers](#): Q&A #593, 594
  - [EPCRA §313 Questions and Answers Addendum for Federal Facilities](#): Q&A #125

## Form Certification

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- ▶ Q: May a **representative** from a consulting firm that prepares a Form R or Form A for a covered facility sign the **certification** in lieu of the covered facility's owner or operator?
- ▶ A: No. A representative from a consulting firm preparing a Form R or a Form A for a covered facility cannot sign the certification in Part I, Section 3 of either the Form R or the Form A. The **certification must be signed by the owner or operator**, or a **senior management official** employed by the facility subject to TRI reporting. Senior management official means an official with management responsibility for the person or persons completing the report, or with management responsibility for the manager of environmental programs for the facility or establishments, or with management responsibility for the corporation owning or operating the facility or establishments responsible for certifying similar reports under the other environmental regulatory requirements.
- ▶ FAQ #[14557](#)



## State Submissions

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- ▶ Q: If I use **TRI-MEweb** to submit my form, will a copy be sent directly to my **state**?
- ▶ A: If a facility is located in a state participating in the **State Data Exchange** and submits a TRI report via TRI-MEweb, the forms will **automatically** be sent to the state TRI office as well. TRI-MEweb will inform the preparer during the submission process whether or not the facility is located in a state participating in the State Data Exchange. A list of participating states is also available at the following URL: [www.epa.gov/tri/stakeholders/state/state\\_exchange/](http://www.epa.gov/tri/stakeholders/state/state_exchange/).

However, if a facility is located in a state that is **not participating** in the State Data Exchange, any forms submitted via TRI-MEweb will not automatically be sent to the state. After these facilities submit their reports to EPA via TRI-MEweb, they should use the application to **prepare** a submission for the **state** on **paper, diskette, CD, or DVD**. To verify the preferred method of submission for each state, go to the TRI State Programs Web site at [www.epa.gov/tri/stateprograms/state\\_programs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/stateprograms/state_programs.htm) or contact your state TRI office.

- ▶ FAQ #[25356](#)

# Resources

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- ▶ Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Forms and Instructions
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/report](http://www.epa.gov/tri/report)
- ▶ EPCRA Section 313 Questions and Answers, Revised 1998 Version
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/guide\\_docs/pdf/1998/1998qa.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs/pdf/1998/1998qa.pdf)
- ▶ EPCRA Section 313 Questions and Answers, Addendum to the Revised 1998 Version as of December 2004
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/guide\\_docs/pdf/1998/1998qa\\_addendum.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs/pdf/1998/1998qa_addendum.pdf)
- ▶ EPCRA Section 313 Questions and Answers Addendum for Federal Facilities, Revised 1999 Version
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/guide\\_docs/pdf/2000/00ffqa2.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs/pdf/2000/00ffqa2.pdf)

# Resources

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- ▶ Industry-Specific/Process-Specific Guidance Documents
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/guide\\_docs](http://www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs)
- ▶ Chemical-Specific Guidance Documents
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/guide\\_docs](http://www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs)
- ▶ TRI Threshold Screening Tool
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/threshold](http://www.epa.gov/tri/threshold)
- ▶ TRI-MEweb
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/report/software/trimeweb](http://www.epa.gov/tri/report/software/trimeweb)

# Resources

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- ▶ Monthly Report Questions
  - [www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/reports.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/reports.htm)
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - <http://tri.supportportal.com>
- ▶ Code of Federal Regulations
  - [www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr)
- ▶ Federal Registers
  - [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)

# Questions about the TRI Information Center?

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If you have any questions about the TRI regulatory requirements or form completion, please call the TRI Information Center  
(800) 424-9346