

Time to send in your Tier II forms

Completed Tier II forms are due to your state by March 1, 2017. Tier II reporting is required under section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) for the purpose of providing state, local officials, and the public with information on the hazardous chemicals being stored in their communities.

Reporting is required for facilities that meet the following criteria:

1. The facility is covered under OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard and must prepare or have available safety data sheets (SDSs) for one or more hazardous chemicals; **and**
2. The facility meets either one of the following conditions:
 - An extremely hazardous substance (EHS) is present at any one time in an amount equal to or greater than 500 pounds (approximately 55 gallons) or the threshold planning quantity (TPQ), whichever is lower. EHSs and their TPQs can be found at 40 CFR 355 Appendices A and B.
 - A hazardous chemical that is not an EHS is present at any one time in an amount equal to or greater than the threshold level for that chemical. Threshold levels are 10,000 pounds unless the chemical is gasoline or diesel fuel at a retail gas station. Higher threshold quantities apply to retail gas stations.

There is no threshold quantity if state responders, local emergency officials, or the local fire department asks you for information on any or all of your chemicals.

Certain chemicals are excluded from the reporting requirements. These include:

- Foods, food additives, color additives, drugs or cosmetics regulated by the Food and Drug Administration;
- Substances that are present as a solid in any manufactured item when exposure to the substance does not occur in normal use;
- Any substance that is used for personal, family, or household purposes, or present in the same form and concentration as a packaged product used by the general public;
- Any substance used in a research laboratory or hospital under the direct supervision of a qualified individual; and
- Any substance used in routine agricultural operations or is a fertilizer held for sale at a retailer.

Note that most states want you to use the federal electronic Tier II software to submit your chemical information, but some have other submission requirements.