

# Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Facts and Contacts

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (also known as SARA Title III or EPCRA) establishes requirements for reporting hazardous and toxic chemicals manufactured or stored at industrial facilities. This law provides information to states and local communities on the presence of hazardous chemicals in their vicinity and helps them better prepare for potential chemical emergencies. More importantly, states and communities, while working with industrial facilities, will be better able to improve chemical safety and protect public health and the environment. The requirements of EPCRA are described in four major sections.



Argon, carbon dioxide, helium, hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen can be supplied as cryogenic liquids or compressed gases.

## Sections 301–303: Emergency Planning

The emergency planning sections outline the state and local government's emergency response and preparedness capabilities through better coordination and planning, especially within the local community.

## Section 304: Emergency Notification

The emergency notification section requires facilities to immediately notify the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) when there is a release of a hazardous substance into the environment in an amount that

exceeds the reportable quantity for that substance. More than 360 extremely hazardous substances listed in 40 CFR 355, as well as the more than 700 hazardous substances listed in 40 CFR 302.4, are covered by this notification requirement.

## Sections 311–312: Community Right-to-Know Requirements

There are two Community Right-to-Know reporting requirements within the EPCRA. Section 311 requires facilities to notify their LEPC, SERC, and local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility when any hazardous chemical that has a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is brought on-site for the first

time above specified quantities. The report must include a copy of the MSDS for each of those hazardous chemicals or a list of the MSDSs for all of the chemicals. You can download your MSDS at [www.airproducts.com/MSDS](http://www.airproducts.com/MSDS). This report must be submitted to the authorities within 90 days of bringing the hazardous chemicals on-site. Some states may have shorter reporting deadlines (i.e., Pennsylvania requires notification within 5 days). Section 312 requires a facility to submit an annual emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form, known as a Tier II form, to their LEPC, SERC, and local fire department. Tier II forms must be submitted no later than March 1 of each year. The same hazardous chemicals covered by Section 311 must be included in the Section 312 (SARA 312) Tier II form when the chemicals were present at the



## SARA Title III Penalties

Civil and administrative penalties ranging up to \$10,000–\$75,000 per violation per day can be assessed to facilities that fail to comply with the various EPCRA reporting requirements described above. Criminal penalties up to \$50,000 or five years in prison may also be given to any person who knowingly and willfully fails to provide emergency release notification.

facility at any time during the previous calendar year above specified thresholds. Specific threshold quantities for Section 311–312 hazardous chemicals are:

- extremely hazardous substances ≥ 500 pounds or the threshold planning quantity, whichever is lower, and
- all other hazardous chemicals ≥ 10,000 pounds.

## Section 313: Toxic Chemical Release Reporting

Facilities subject to the EPCRA Section 313 reporting requirement are required to complete a Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Form, also known as a Form R, for specified chemicals manufactured, processed or otherwise used at the facility above specified thresholds. Form R must be submitted to the EPA and to most state offices annually on or before July 1 for the previous calendar year. The purpose of this reporting requirement is to inform the public and government offices about routine releases and transfers of toxic chemicals to the environment. It will also assist in research and the development of regulations, guidelines, and standards.

Below is a list of the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers you may need for reporting:

Product	CAS Number
Argon	7440-37-1
Carbon Dioxide	124-38-9
Helium	7440-59-7
Hydrogen	1333-74-0
Nitrogen	7727-37-9
Oxygen	7782-44-7

## Information to Help You File Under SARA 312

### Industrial Gas Information

To help you calculate your daily average and maximum gas and cryogenic liquid volumes, you can retrieve your delivery volume data through our APDirect® Customer Portal at [www.airproducts.com/apdirect](http://www.airproducts.com/apdirect).

You must register in advance to gain access, so please act early. Learn more at [www.airproducts.com/report312](http://www.airproducts.com/report312).

You can also use our interactive conversion tool at [www.airproducts.com/convert](http://www.airproducts.com/convert) to convert your volume to pounds for reporting.

### Additional Information

Visit Air Products' SARA 312 Online Information Service at [www.airproducts.com/sara312](http://www.airproducts.com/sara312).

You'll find useful information such as:

- EPCRA requirement information
- quick links to forms
- state and federal government website links and contacts
- useful conversion tables
- answers to frequently asked questions

## Useful Resources

**APDirect Customer Portal**  
[www.airproducts.com/apdirect](http://www.airproducts.com/apdirect)

**Interactive Conversion Tool**  
Convert your volume to pounds.  
[www.airproducts.com/convert](http://www.airproducts.com/convert)

**SARA 312 Online Information Website**  
[www.airproducts.com/sara312](http://www.airproducts.com/sara312)

## tell me more

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