NORTH CAROLINA
Chemical Accident Prevention Program
Departments of:
Agriculture & Consumer Services
Crime Control & Public Safety
Environment & Natural Resources

North Carolina
Chemical Accident Prevention Program

RMP NEWS

Volume I **Spring 2001** Information and News on 112 (r) of the Clean Air Act (Risk Management Program)

Welcome to the first newsletter of the North Carolina Chemical Accident Prevention Program. The mission of the program is to promote chemical release prevention measures and reduce the impact of a release on the environment, property and public health through safety programs, emergency preparedness and public access to chemical information.

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Important Phone Numbers

State EOC (Emergency Hazardous Materials Calls)(800) 858-0368
National Response Center . . . . . (800) 424-8802
Chemtrec (Chemical Emergency Information) . . . . (800) 424-9300
NC Division of Water Quality. . . . . (919) 733-5291
NC Department of Labor . .. . (800) LABOR-NC
NC EPCRA Hotline . . . . . (919) 733-1361
EPA EPCRA, RCRA, 112r Hotline . . . . . (800) 424-9346

For More Information

Internet Resources:
Division of Air Quality, Chemical Accidental Release Prevention Program—http://daq.state.nc.us/112r/

North Carolina Emergency Management, Risk Management Program—www.ncem.org/hazmat/RMPPAGE1.htm

Contact Information:
Abby Moore, Interim Chemical Accidental Release Prevention Program, Division of Air Quality
Abby.moore@ncmail.net
(919) 715-7174

Tina Howard, Risk Management Program Coordinator, North Carolina Emergency Management
thoward@ncem.org
(919) 715-9242

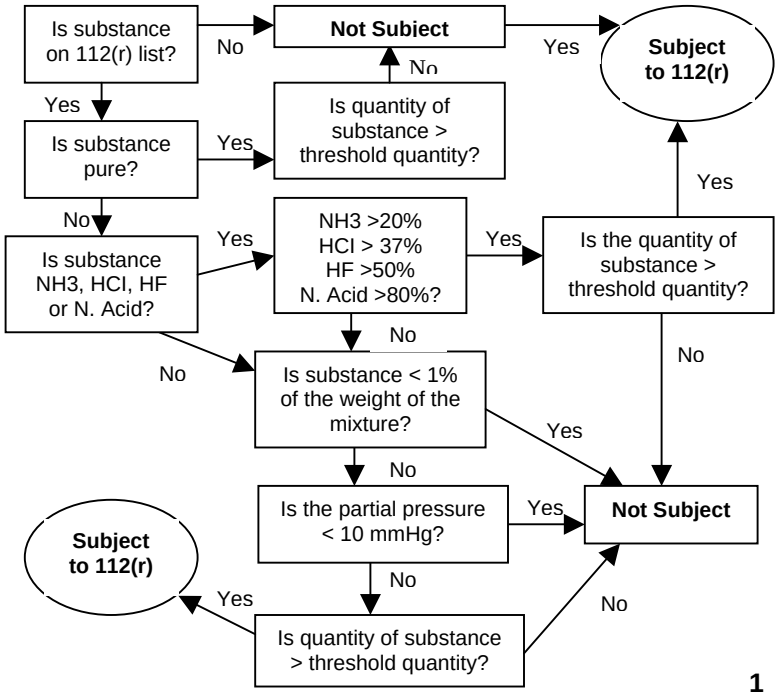
What is the Chemical Accident Prevention and Risk Management Program?

In 1990, Congress amended the Clean Air Act, Section 112(r), requiring facilities using certain chemicals above specific quantities in a process to implement a program to prevent and respond to accidental releases of the chemicals. The Risk Management Program consists of a hazard assessment, 5-year accident history, and accident prevention and emergency response programs. By June 21, 1999, covered facilities were required to submit a Risk Management Plan (RMP) for each chemical process summarizing their program. The Risk Management rule is codified in 40 CFR Part 68.

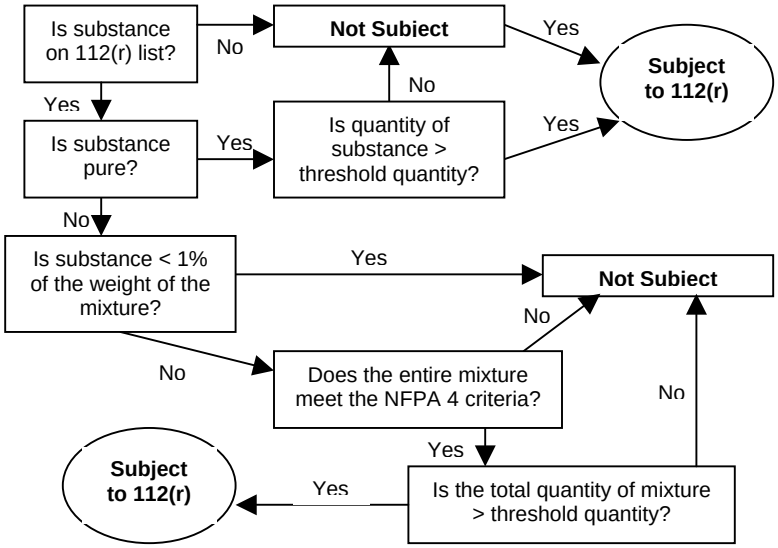
Are you covered by the Risk Management Rule?

If you use, make or store more than the threshold quantity of regulated chemicals in a single process, you must develop a Risk Management Program. There are 77 acutely toxic and 63 flammable substances that are identified in this rule. Use the following diagrams to determine if your facility is covered.

Threshold Determination: Toxics



Are you covered by the Risk Management Rule?
Threshold Determination: Flammables



Chemical Safety Information, Site Security and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act (CSISSFRA) of 1999

CSISSFRA (PL 106-40) exempted facilities using propane and other flammable substances as fuel or retail facilities holding substances for sale as fuel from the Risk Management Rule.

In addition to the fuels exemption, CSISSFRA restricted public access to the worst- and alternative-case scenario (Off-site Consequence Analysis) data of Risk Management Plans. Due to concerns that electronic distribution of the database may pose a security threat, OCA sections of Risk Management Plans were deleted from the EPA online database and government officials were prohibited from distributing OCA information to the public until August 2000. By that date, the federal government planned to complete an evaluation of the risks and benefits of releasing OCA data to the public.

In the meantime, regulated facilities with Program 2 or 3 processes were required to present information to the public in the form of a public meeting by February 1, 2000. Small businesses had the option to publicly post a summary of OCA information. Since the issuance of the Public Distribution of Off-site Consequence Analysis Information final rule in August 2000, newly regulated facilities are not required to hold public meetings nor post information.

Off-Site Consequence Analysis Distribution

In August 2000, Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Justice issued a final rule on the public distribution of OCA information. Their assessment revealed the public would benefit from the information, but that widespread, anonymous distribution on the Internet would increase the threat of criminal activity.

The final rule authorizes the creation of 50 federal reading rooms and encourages state and local emergency planning and response agencies to provide read-only access to OCA information. At federal reading rooms, a member of the public may view up to 10 facilities per month located anywhere in the nation and an unlimited number of facilities located within the LEPC jurisdiction of the person's home or business. State and local entities may provide access to local facilities.

Another way of receiving chemical hazard information is through an Internet-based system that will indicate whether a person's home or business is located within impact zones of a chemical release. This system, the Vulnerable Zone Indicator System, is available via Internet (www.epa.gov/ceppo/vzis.htm), toll free number or mail request.

New State Emissions Reduction Rule

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 set a goal of reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) by 2 million tons from 1980 levels. The Acid Rain program focuses on one set of sources that emit NOx: coal-fired electric utility boilers. In 2000, North Carolina issued a rule requiring utility providers that use fossil fuel power generators to reduce NOx emissions.

NOx emissions are typically reduced using a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) device that injects ammonia into the system, breaking down the nitrogen. Utility providers using more than 10,000 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia for use in SCR device would trigger applicability in the Risk Management Program.

Preparing for Chemical Emergencies

While prevention is an important part of ensuring the safety of workers and surrounding communities, accidents do happen. Preparing for emergencies will save lives, property and the environment. An effective way to prepare for incidents is to practice responding to a simulated incident. Simulated incidents allow workers, emergency responders, industry, and media to exercise their emergency plans in a real-life setting.

The Chemical Accident Prevention Program will be offering grants to counties and Local Emergency Planning Committees to test emergency response at facilities regulated by the Risk Management Rule. If you are interested in participating, contact your local emergency manager.

Chemical Release Notification

In the event of a chemical release, the Risk Management rule requires facilities to notify their local emergency responders. Facilities that do not have an onsite emergency response team must institute "appropriate mechanisms to notify emergency responders when there is a need for a response" (40 CFR § 68.90). Facilities with emergency response teams are required to develop "procedures for informing the public and local emergency response agencies about accidental releases" (40 CFR § 68.95).

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