

CONTRA COSTA

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS
A Division of Contra Costa Health Services

The

Haz Mat Recorder

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Safety Alerts and Other Considerations

4 If You Use Forklifts...

Some forklifts powered with LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) have caused accidents, some of which have resulted in serious injuries and death.

Please check your forklifts if they use an evaporate/pressure control unit manufactured by company IMPCO, type "J" or "K". Those devices should be replaced by type "COBRA". **Defective units were sold primarily in Germany, not in the U.S.**

The possibility of an explosion exists if the choke is used and the engine of the forklift is stopped before it is warmed up to a minimum of 60 degree Fahrenheit. Then it is possible that LPG as a fluid remains in the evaporate unit and explodes at the next start of the engine. IMPCO units are built in a number of forklifts, e.g. Mitui, Yale, Toyota, Daewoo, Clark, Fiat, Linde, Still and others. For more information, please call your supplier.

STOP Don't Crush Fluorescent Light Tubes
Using a tube crusher to compact fluorescent tubes is hazardous to your employees' health.
The phosphor powder inside the tubes can be easily inhaled and contains mercury.

Crushing fluorescent light tubes, unless done under very special circumstances, is illegal in the state of California. **It constitutes the illegal treatment of a hazardous waste.**

For Tips to Save Energy...

Check out PG&E's website www.pge.com Also visit the Alliance to Save Energy website, <www.asc.org> and the EPA's website, <www.epa.gov> - click on the energy star program.

- Using Recycled Antifreeze

If you recycle antifreeze on site or employ a mobile antifreeze recycling company, make sure the technology is up to date.

In order to reduce corrosion problems, California Weights and Measures have adopted new standards for antifreeze recycling units that will lower allowable concentrations of chloride and sulfate. Regulations must be in place before January 1, 2002, and you will be required to comply with them shortly thereafter. **To find out if your antifreeze recycling machine or your on-site recycling service will meet the new standards, call your manufacturer or service representative.** He should have test data available to answer the question.

On-site antifreeze recyclers employ one of several technologies: Filtration removes particles only, not the

Please see **Antifreeze**, continued on page 4.

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EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (7

What is TRI and How Can I Obtain More Information?

The Toxics Release Inventory Program was established under section 313 of the Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986. (EPCRA). It requires certain facilities in covered industry sectors to report their releases of certain toxic chemicals to the state and federal governments if they manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than established threshold quantities of TRI-listed chemicals. For more information on TRI, including covered chemicals, covered industry sectors, guidance and other information see the TRI homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/tri>. For specific questions regarding reporting under TRI, including questions concerning whether or not you need to report, contact the EPCRA hotline at 1(800) 535-0202 or toll free TDD 1 (800) 553-7672.

The Form R (the reporting form for the Toxics Release Inventory) for 2000 is now available

for download off the web

facilities that have reported in the past. This mailing will go out later in the spring.

The US EPA Region 9 office is sponsoring a series of compliance assistance workshops

designed to assist covered facilities to comply with EPCRA section 31.3, also known as the toxic Release Inventory.

Register on the Internet at:

<http://www.EPCRA-TRI.com>

If you have any questions, please call

Adam Browning, TRI Program Coordinator,
EPA Region 9 at (415) 744-1121.

Workshops scheduled for the Bay Area are:

San Jose CA April 5, 2001

San Francisco, CA April 12-13, 2001

A new guidance document, developed to help regulated parties report on dioxin and dioxin-like compounds

pursuant to the reporting requirement of section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (also known as the Toxics Release Inventory, or TRI), has just been released.

It is available on the web at:

<http://www.epa.gov/tri/guidance.htm#dioxins>



?1) Program - News and Updates

New TRI Reporting Requirements for Lead and Lead Compounds New Rule Effective January 2001

In January 2001 EPA issued a final rule under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) which **lowers the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds to 100 lbs.** The rule is part of the Agency's effort to expand the public's right to know about toxic chemicals --- particularly persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic chemicals in their communities.

Currently, facilities are not required to report their lead and lead compound releases to the air, water and land unless they manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds annually or use more than 10,000 pounds annually. These high thresholds severely limit the information on lead and lead

compounds available to communities. The new rule lowers the annual reporting threshold to 100 pounds.

Persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals are of concern not only because they are toxic but also because they remain in the environment for long periods of time, are not readily destroyed, and build up or accumulate in body tissue. Lead and lead compounds are a particular concern because of their toxicity in children.

Children and developing fetuses are known to absorb lead more readily than adults, and, once in the body, lead is distributed to the blood, soft tissue and bone. Children exposed to lead can suffer from damage to the brain and central nervous system, slow growth, hyperactivity, and behavior and learning problems. Adults exposed to lead can suffer difficulties during pregnancy, high blood pressure, nervous disorders, and memory and concentration problems.

In October 1999 EPA published a final rule under Section 313 of EPCRA which adds certain PBT chemicals to the list of chemicals reportable under TRI, and which lowers reporting thresholds for certain PBT chemicals. This rule supplements that action. Like the October, 1999 PBT rule, this rule includes modifications to certain existing reporting exemptions and requirements for lead and lead compounds.

The new lead rule is effective January 2001. Therefore, the new requirements apply for TRI reports on releases and waste management for the year 2001, which must be submitted to the Agency by July 1, 2002.

Please note that the rule lowering requirements for other PBT chemicals is effective for the year 2000, and the first report with the lower thresholds is due July 1, 2001. Copies of the rules can be obtained from the EPA TRI homepage at www.epa.gov



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ATTN: ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Antifreeze (cont.)

dissolved ions including chloride and sulfate. Ion exchange removes some dissolved ions. It is usually used along with another technology. Reverse osmosis also removes some dissolved ions. Distillation removes all dissolved ions and most of the water, producing a 95% glycol and 5% water solution. It is economical for very high volumes. You can also reduce chloride concentrations by using distilled water to make up your antifreeze mixture. Additionally, some vehicle manufacturers, (e.g. General Motors, Ford, Detroit Diesel and Cummins) test and certify antifreeze-recycling equipment or have developed standards for recycled antifreeze to be used in their vehicles.

What about OAT Coolant?

In 1999 about 30% of new passenger vehicles and 5% of heavy-duty equipment were factory filled with organic acid technology (OAT) coolants. Many antifreeze recycling units can recycle OAT coolants.

The most important factor when recycling OAT coolant is to use a technology, that completely removes the chemical ions. Once the coolant has been recycled, it may be returned to a conventional or OAT coolant depending on the additive package used.

Bottom line: contact the manufacturer of your recycling unit. Make sure it can meet the new standards. For more information, please contact John [son of California Department of Toxic Substances Control - Pollution Prevention Technology at (916) 322-4233.

A final note: Any technology that removes the "chemistry" removes the additives as well. These additives must be reintroduced into the antifreeze after the recycling process.

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