RMP Prevention Program

Each prevention program must spell out process safety precautions, maintenance, monitoring and employee training measures, and address each of the following areas:

- process hazard analysis,
- process safety information,
- standard operating procedures,
- employee training,
- preventive maintenance,
- pre-start up review,
- safety audits,
- accident investigation, and
- changes in process management.

Web Page for the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

http://www.state.tn.us/environment

Web page for RMP standard and latest EPA information

http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/acc-pre.html

This site covers the following:

- Press Releases
- Fact Sheets
- Training Modules
- Legislation
- Regulations
- Inter-agency Agreements and
- Guidance Documents

Facility-Based Emergency Response Program

The program must describe plans and procedures which would include the following:

- personal protection,
- response/mitigation system,
- drills or exercises to test the plans, and
- training on first aid and emergency care.

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The Clean Air Act Section 112(r)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed air quality regulations requiring businesses that handle regulated hazardous substances above certain volumes (thresholds) to develop and implement a program to prevent, detect and respond to chemical accidents. These regulations, required by Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA), are designed to help businesses reduce the possibility of an accidental chemical release that could be harmful to the public and the environment.

Section 112(r) regulations consist of two parts; a list of regulated substances with the threshold limits for accidental release prevention, and the necessary components of a Risk Management Program (RMP). Affected businesses are required to develop, submit and register a Risk Management Plan.

General Requirements

According to section 112(r), all businesses must identify hazards that may result from accidental releases regardless of the quantity of a substance kept on-site or whether or not it is on a government list. This is referred to as the General Duty Clause which requires facilities to:
• identify hazards,
• design and maintain a safe facility, and
• minimize the consequences when a spill or release occurs.

Businesses that handle a listed substance above the indicated threshold quantity have additional requirements.

Regulated Substances and Thresholds

The 112r regulations list substances and threshold quantities which will require actions beyond those listed above. Threshold quantities for toxic chemicals range from 500 to 20,000 pounds. For flammable substances, the threshold quantity is 10,000 pounds. A list of these regulated chemicals and indicated threshold quantities is available in a separate brochure. Call the Small Business Assistance Program at: 1-800-734-3619.

Affected Facilities

Many small businesses with less than 100 employees could be affected by the new regulations. Some examples of these businesses include:
◊ food processors, distributors and warehouses that use ammonia as a refrigerant
◊ manufacturers; wholesalers of durable and non-durable goods;
◊ propane users and retailers; agricultural retailers, including co-ops, that store and sell ammonia;
◊ some service industries such as: commercial laundries, janitorial services, hospitals; and
◊ chemical suppliers, manufacturers and end users.

Exemptions

Specific exemptions to the threshold limits are included for mixtures of certain manufactured items (as defined by the rule). Exemptions include certain practices such as the use of ammonia as an agricultural nutrient when stored and used on a farm, and the manufacture and or use of a chemical in a laboratory. A copy of the rule is available by calling: 1-800-734-3619.

Risk Management Plan

The plan must include:
• a hazard assessment,
• a 5 year accident history,
• a prevention program, and
• an emergency response program.

Affected facilities subject to this rule must be in compliance by June 21, 1999

Submitting Your Risk Management Plan

Risk Management Plan’s are to be submitted electronically to EPA, the State or a delegated State or Local Agency.

Please Note: (At the time of printing this brochure, the implementing agency had not been determined.)