



# OFFICE OF ADVOCACY FACTSHEET

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## *Advocacy Recommends Burden Reductions under the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory Requirements*

On September 25, 2003, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) submitted a written statement on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting requirements to the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals, U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Natural Resources. In Advocacy's statement, Chief Counsel for Advocacy Thomas M. Sullivan highlighted the need for small business burden relief and the impact on small businesses of EPA's 2001 TRI expansion rule. A copy of Advocacy's letter can be found at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/>.

- Advocacy's statement cited its [September 2, 2003](#) letter to EPA recommending burden reduction options that would, without any loss of right-to-know data, provide relief to small businesses that release either zero or small amounts of chemicals. Advocacy recommended expansion of eligibility to use Form A, the shorter of two TRI reporting forms. The office also recommended a new "Form NS," denoting no significant change from an established baseline, to free small firms that qualify from filing the longer Form R, except to establish the baseline every five years.
- Advocacy explained that the need for burden reduction was, in part, due to EPA's 2001 TRI expansion rule that reclassified lead as a persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemical and lowered the reporting threshold for lead and lead compounds to 100 pounds. The rule significantly increased the burden on many small manufacturing firms while producing data of little right-to-know value. In the first reporting year under the new threshold, reports for lead and lead compounds increased by more than 400 percent. Nearly all of the new lead reports (and 38 percent of all reports in 2001) were for releases of zero or very small amounts (25 percent of all reports had fewer than 10 pounds).

For more information, visit Advocacy's web page at <http://www.sba.gov/advo> or contact Kevin Bromberg at (202) 205-6533.