



OFFICE OF ADVOCACY FACTSHEET

409 3rd Street, SW • MC 3114 • Washington, DC 20416 • 202/205-6533 ph. • 202/205-6928 fax • www.sba.gov/advo

Advocacy Reiterates Support for Reducing Paperwork Burdens on Small Businesses under the Toxics Release Inventory

On February 4, 2004, the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration urged the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement paperwork burden relief for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporters by July 2005, in time for the 2004 reporting year. The TRI program requires facilities to report annually on releases and related chemical waste activities for more than 600 chemicals. Information about the TRI program can be found on the EPA website: www.epa.gov/tri. Advocacy submitted comments to Phase II of EPA's Online Dialogue on TRI, initiated to address TRI paperwork burden issues. Advocacy included its September 2, 2003, letter to EPA on TRI burden reduction for consideration as part of the online dialogue. A complete copy of the February 4 and September 2 letters may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments>.

- There are currently two forms available for TRI reporting: the shorter Form A, which is currently available to only a minority of TRI reporters, and the longer Form R. Advocacy is recommending specific changes to enhance the Form A and proposes a new "Form NS" to provide a certification of "no substantial change" from a baseline year in which a Form R would have been filed.
- Advocacy is also recommending that EPA extend the use of reporting in ranges (instead of requiring point estimates) to all sections of the Form R, and suggests that EPA establish a new reporting threshold for the chemical and petroleum wholesalers to eliminate reporting for small business facilities with very small releases.
- The Office of Advocacy has engaged a contractor, Jack Faucett Associates, to conduct an in-depth analysis of its recommended burden reduction options. Advocacy will present this report shortly to EPA for consideration.
- Advocacy's goal is to improve the TRI program by supplementing the Form A with additional data, providing substantial burden reductions to thousands of TRI reporters while still preserving TRI data quality.

For more information, visit Advocacy's web page at <http://www.sba.gov/advo> or contact Kevin Bromberg at (202) 205-6964.