



## News About: The 2006 IUR Rule...change for easier, more accurate filing

Under the Inventory Update Reporting (IUR) rule, manufacturers and importers of certain chemicals on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substances Inventory must report data to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the manufacture, import, and use of these chemicals. Information on chemicals from calendar year 2005 must be reported to EPA using Form U during the 2006 submission period.

In 2006, industry will be able to submit the IUR Form U on-line through EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX). CDX has become a trusted and time-tested information exchange system used by over 45,000 registered participants. Responding to e-government initiatives, and to simplify and improve the submission process for industry, EPA is currently developing the capability for IUR submitters to use EPA's CDX to upload their electronic IUR data securely and efficiently over the Web to EPA for processing. Of course, industry will continue to be able to submit Form U to the Agency either in hard copy or on CD-ROM.

We expect this new approach to result in numerous benefits to EPA and industry:

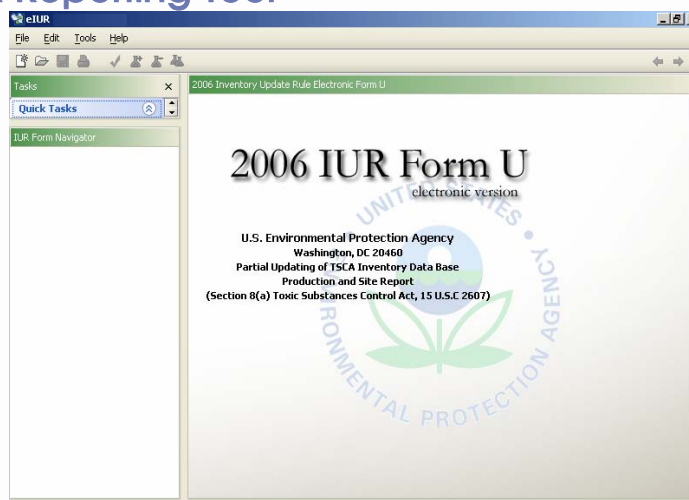
- Improved submission processes – Industry has yet another alternative to submitting their data to EPA, directly over the Web, eliminating the time and expense of postage, double-wrapping, physical damage, or loss that could occur with mailing hard copy or CD-ROM submissions. Data will be securely protected by encryption during transit (see below), removing the threat of theft or misrouting of physical submissions.
- Streamlined back-end processing – If data are received electronically, errors caused by manual processing will be eliminated, greatly improving the data quality of submissions. Electronic submissions are automatically validated (see below), so you will be notified by EPA instantly upon receipt of a valid submission, and there will be less need for follow-up information.

## Streamlining the Submission Process: IUR Reporting Tool

EPA has developed an IUR reporting tool to facilitate the submission of IUR data. Downloadable from the EPA Web site, the tool, which includes an electronic Form U, can be used for reporting through CDX. It can also be used to download Form U reporting information onto a CD-Rom or to print it and send to EPA. The IUR reporting tool will feature several improved capabilities over past IUR reporting tools:

1. **Platform-independence and easy installation:** EPA recognizes that not all submitters use Windows platforms to support their computing needs. Therefore, the IUR reporting tool has been developed for installation and use on most platforms. The reporting tool generates an encrypted eXtensible Markup Language (XML) file of the user's IUR data.
2. **Validation:** Using the IUR reporting tool, users will be able to validate their information once data entry is complete. Validation will help ensure that the data meet EPA business rules and that the user has completed all required fields.
3. **Encryption:** EPA has incorporated an encryption algorithm into the reporting tool which is fully compliant with FIPS 140-2. Encryption will ensure that the XML file generated by the reporting tool remains uncompromised during transit.
4. **Extensive Online Help:** The reporting tool has an extensive help system that includes an overview of the tool interface, detailed explanations of each data field (consistent with the 2006 IUR instructions for reporting), and navigation guides to facilitate completion of Form U. Also detailed in the help files is an overview of the reporting tool interface, so that the user can quickly understand the components of the system.

In addition, EPA plans to publish the XML schema used to generate the XML files, allowing industry the flexibility to create XML files from their existing databases or applications. However, the reporting tool must be used to validate and encrypt the file for submission.



### Benefits of Submitting IURs through CDX:

- Reduces time and expense of mailing
- Improves security using digital encryption
- Eliminates errors associated with manual processing
- Automates and expedites validation and receipt acknowledgement
- Minimizes follow-up phone calls for clarification and correction

Workshops for 2006 IUR reporting are planned. Please contact EPA for a workshop schedule

## Submitting IURs Electronically Through the Central Data Exchange

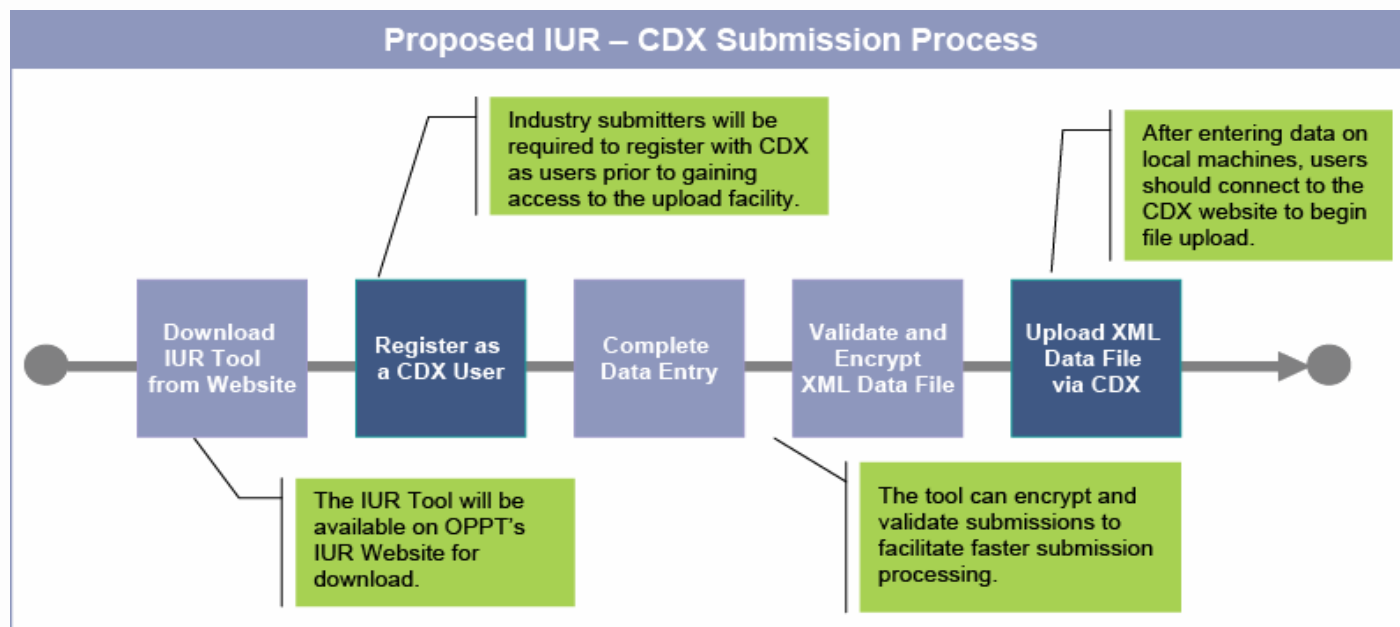
Industry and other entities routinely submit environmental information, such as compliance reports, to EPA and state governments. Although in the past this information was submitted on paper, information technology has made it possible to generate and submit data electronically. Through a joint partnership, EPA and the states established the Exchange Network to facilitate environmental information sharing among EPA, states, tribes, localities, and other entities. The Central Data Exchange (CDX) serves as EPA's point of exchange on the Environmental Information Exchange Network. Today, CDX successfully manages thousands of data submissions from states and industry. CDX provides standardized and secure information collection services and infrastructure for EPA programs and their partners.

EPA is using CDX to develop an efficient and streamlined IUR file submission process. Currently, we are working to ensure that the established process addresses all security risks associated with uploading confidential business information (CBI) to EPA's information systems. EPA recognizes that securing CBI data is of utmost and critical importance to the success of the CDX in the IUR submission process. For that reason, **only CBI-cleared, EPA employees and contractors** will be permitted access to IUR submissions, whether reported through CDX, or as CD-ROM or hard copy submissions.

### CDX at a Glance

- Over 45,000 registered CDX participants
- 42,000 file submissions received in 2004
- 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 9 tribes are using CDX

The proposed process for submitting IURs through CDX is depicted below.



In the future, we plan to expand the use of CDX to other TSCA submissions. Your participation in using CDX for IUR submissions will position you to take advantage of future improvements in TSCA data processing.

Please look for additional communication regarding the 2006 IUR submission process through CDX. Questions? Call the IUR Helpline at 202-564-3011. For more information about specific programs, contact:

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