
ENVIRONMENTAL

Toxic Release Inventory Form A and Form R Reports Due July 1



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The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) was created by EPA in response to several events that raised public concern about local preparedness for chemical emergencies and the availability of information on hazardous substances.

Printing is one of the industry sectors required to annually report releases of certain chemicals. A printing facility with 10 or more full-time equivalent employees is required to report if the facility exceeds established chemical thresholds. Note that TRI reporting is not based on the amount of emissions to atmosphere or how much waste is generated. Instead, a company that manufactures or processes more than 25,000 pounds or otherwise uses more than 10,000 pounds of a TRI-listed chemical is required to report releases of these chemicals by July 1.

There are currently more than 650 chemicals covered by the TRI program including chemicals commonly used by printers, such as toluene, xylene,

ethylbenzene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, glycol ethers, solvents, and metals. Of particular interest to lithographic printers is the wide use of glycol ethers in fountain solutions and more recently in cleaning solutions, to take the place of solvents with high vapor pressures. It is important to mention that “glycol ethers” is a chemical category and within this category there are hundreds of individual chemicals that are reportable. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) do not indicate the presence of “glycol ethers” as a constituent of a raw material; so, a printer must look up each listed constituent and compare it to the list of TRI chemicals to determine whether it is reportable.

For more information, go to <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program> or contact Ann O'Brien at aobrien@scsengineers.com or Cheryl Moran at cmoran@scsengineers.com at SCS Engineers in Madison, WI.