



If you own or operate a facility that uses regulated chemicals in your processes, maintenance and cleaning products, and other raw materials used in producing a finished product, then you may have to comply with regulations designed to protect the quality of the air we breathe.

The Internet, especially the World Wide Web, has revolutionized how small business owners can obtain free information on regulatory requirements and pollution prevention. You just need to know where to look.



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The Information Age

USING THE INTERNET TO FIND REGULATORY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION INFORMATION

Ecology Fact Sheet

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On Nov. 15, 1990, the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) were signed into law. Thousands of small businesses are affected by the amendments' controls on small air pollution sources. The requirements affecting small business owners and operators depends on how badly the local air is polluted, and the kinds and quantities of pollutants their businesses emit. Auto body shops, bakeries, distilleries, dry cleaners, fiberglass fabricators, foundries, furniture manufacturers, gasoline service stations, general contractors, metal finishers and fabricators, photo finishing laboratories, printing shops, and other small businesses may be affected by the air pollution control programs the law may require.

Many small business owners agree that regulatory requirements can be confusing and often change without notice. But help is available, thanks to the Internet, which gives business owners and managers easy access to information about regulations and pollution prevention technical assistance. Especially useful is the World Wide Web, an element of the Internet which allows quick access to information files from across the nation, right from your desktop.

Each of the millions of Web sites that are on the Internet has an "address," known as a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). You can bring a Web site to your desktop simply by typing the URL into your Web "browser," an easy software tool that will help you search the Web. Below are helpful Web sites with information on regulations and pollution prevention. The URLs are printed in boldface type.

REGULATORY INFORMATION WEB SITES

Clearinghouse for Inventories and Emission Factors

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/>

This site, maintained by EPA's Emission Factor and Inventory group, provides access to the latest information and tools for estimating emissions of air pollutants and performing air emission inventories.

Federal Register – Daily Table of Contents

<http://earth1.epa.gov:80/EPAFR-CONTENTS/>

The Federal Register's Daily Table of Contents is useful to keep current on proposed, amended and final federal regulations.

Small Business Environmental Assistance

<http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/>

The U.S. Small Business Assistance Program commissioned the development of this site, which provides information on state small business assistance programs, compliance assistance, industry sector assistance, EPA voluntary initiatives and programs, and pollution prevention resources. At <http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/html/regupdate.asp> you can retrieve regulatory updates for all of the "media" (air, water and hazardous waste) programs.

Unified Air Toxics Website: EPA Rules & Implementation

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/eparules.html>

This web site has information on air toxics rules, rule development and implementation information.

Washington Department of Ecology Air Quality Program

<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/air/airhome.html>

This web site provides access to many of the activities and programs of Washington's environmental agency.

POLLUTION PREVENTION WEB SITES

A small business can take advantage of pollution prevention opportunities to minimize potential environmental liabilities. One element of pollution prevention is reducing or eliminating the use of regulated hazardous materials, through process changes, substitution and other methods. Visit these sites to find alternative equipment and process materials to reduce or eliminate pollution.

Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)

<http://www.pprc.org/pprc/sbap/sbap.html>

PPRC's Northwest Business Assistance Network provides information intended to help small businesses in the region learn how pollution prevention can help them cut costs, become more efficient and reduce compliance burdens. The materials on this site include fact sheets, industry-specific workbooks, interactive self-help tools, and contacts.

Energy User News

<http://www.energyusernews.com/testmenu.htm>

EUN and the Association of Professional Energy Managers designed this series of monthly training modules to provide non-specialists with an introduction to the fundamentals of energy management.

EPA's Facility Pollution Prevention Guide

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/opp/tanbook/fppgbgn.html>

This edition of the guide is written for individuals responsible for implementing pollution prevention in their facilities. It is intended to help small- to medium-sized production facilities develop broad-based pollution prevention programs. It describes how to identify, assess and implement opportunities for preventing pollution and how to stimulate a continuing search for such opportunities. Companies that adopt this approach typically find that they reduce both their operating costs and their potential liabilities, in addition to helping to protect the environment.

Joint Service Pollution Prevention Opportunity Handbook

<http://enviro.nfesc.navy.mil/p2library/index2.html>

The Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook was designed to identify available "off-the-shelf" pollution prevention technologies, management practices and process changes that will reduce the amount of hazardous waste and solid waste being generated.

Coating Alternatives Guide (CAGE)

<http://clean.rti.org/cage/>

This Web site is an expert system and information base for small- and medium-sized businesses with miscellaneous metal and plastic parts coating operations. The site is an interactive system to identify low-emitting coating technologies.

Solvent Alternatives Guide SAGE

<http://clean.rti.org/tools.htm>

SAGE is an interactive online tool that evaluates the user's current operating scenario and identifies possible surface cleaning alternative solvent chemistries and processes best suited to the defined operating and material requirements.

Who to Call for Help

Through the Washington Department of Ecology's Compliance Assistance Office, non-enforcement assistance is available for small businesses with air quality questions. The purpose of the program is to:

- Explain air quality regulations and recommend ways to comply.
- Provide free, on-site technical assistance visits.
- Help businesses estimate air pollution emissions;
- Refer businesses to needed resources; and
- Provide information on potential sources of financing.

For more information, contact:

Compliance Assistance Office

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