

POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT OF 1990

The Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) of 1990 was enacted to focus industry, government and the public on source reduction (pollution prevention) rather than upon treatment and disposal. The national policy of the U.S. states that:

- pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source, whenever feasible
- pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner, whenever feasible
- pollution that cannot be prevented or recycled should be treated in an environmentally safe manner, whenever feasible
- disposal or other release into the environment should be employed only as a last resort and should be conducted in an environmentally safe manner

Source reduction is defined as any practice which:

- reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment or disposal
- reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of substances, pollutants or contaminants

Source reduction includes:

- equipment or technology modifications
- process or procedure modifications
- reformulations or redesign of products
- substitution of raw materials
- improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training or inventory control

It does NOT include any practice which alters the characteristics or volume of a hazardous substance which itself is not part of the production process.

The EPA administers the provisions under this act through the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) to promote a multi-media (land, water, air) approach to source reduction.

The PPA states that data collection on source reduction is a mandatory reporting requirement on the annual Section 313 (Form R) report. The EPA incorporated the following information on the form in 1992:

1. The quantity of the chemical entering any waste stream (or otherwise released into the environment) prior to recycling, treatment or disposal during the calendar year for which the report is filed and the percentage change from the previous year.

2. The amount of the chemical from the facility which is recycled (at the facility or elsewhere) during such calendar year, the percentage change from the previous year, and the process of recycling used.
3. The source reduction practices used with respect to that chemical during such year at the facility.
4. The amount expected to be reported under paragraphs 1. and 2. for the two calendar years immediately following the calendar year for which the report is filed. (The EPA stated that this would not need to be exact information.)
5. A ratio of production in the reporting year compared to production in the previous year.
6. The techniques which were used to identify source reduction opportunities.
7. The amount of any toxic chemical released into the environment which resulted from a catastrophic event or other one-time event which is not associated with the production processes during the reporting year.
8. The amount of the chemical from the facility which is treated.

All facilities should begin initiating waste minimization activities if they haven't already. The next time you sign a hazardous waste manifest, read the statement that goes along with your signature very carefully. You are attesting to already having a waste minimization program in place.

The OPPT has established a Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange on their web-site which should provide you with plenty of information in order to get your waste minimization program developed. There is a "P2Rx Topic Hub" on Fiberglass Fabrication which can be located at www.epa.gov/oppt/library/ppicdist.htm#Bus.

The Composites One Accessories & Equipment Catalog highlights efficiency boosting gelcoaters and flow coaters. Call 800/348-7503 for a catalog. Also, your Composites One sales rep can inform you about lower styrenated resins, gel coats and styrene suppressants.