

SECTION 3-2: EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1986  
(EPCRA) REQUIREMENTS

3-2-00	Policy
10	(Reserved)
20	Guidance and Information
30	(Reserved)

3-2-00 POLICY

EPCRA's provisions form two primary programs: 1) emergency planning, and 2) community right-to-know. EPCRA establishes a mechanism for providing the public with important information on the hazardous and toxic chemicals in their communities, and it creates emergency planning and notification requirements to protect the public in the event of a release of extremely hazardous substances. The law requires local communities to prepare plans for dealing with emergencies relating to the release of extremely hazardous substances from facilities within those communities. EPCRA also provides the public and local and state governments with the right to obtain information concerning the types, amount, location, storage, use, disposition, and possible health effects from the release of hazardous and extremely hazardous substances from facilities that are in their communities. Executive Order 12856 ("Federal Compliance With Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements", Aug 3, 1993) requires all Federal agencies to comply with EPCRA.

3-2-20 GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

Facilities that are subject to EPCRA are required to provide information and reports to EPA and state and local groups. Five distinct reporting requirements are contained in EPCRA:

- (1) Emergency planning (GAM 30-60-20);
- (2) Notification of release (GAM 30-60-30);
- (3) Material safety data sheet submission (GAM 30-60-40);
- (4) Emergency and hazardous chemical inventory reporting (GAM 30-60-50); and
- (5) Toxic chemical release reports (GAM 30-60-70).

Each of these reporting requirements and other facility responsibilities are described in GAM 30-60, <http://www.hhs.gov/hhsmanuals/read/gam/part30/>. It is not intended that these cited GAM provisions be used as the sole source of information for these EPCRA compliance requirements, but only as a starting point. The Department recognizes that any of the authorities and requirements described in these cited GAM provisions may have been revised since the issuance of GAM Chapter 30 in February 2000. Therefore, the current specific EPCRA statutory and regulatory provisions and any relevant Executive Orders should also be reviewed when any specific question or issue arises.