

Review of EPA Regulations



What is the EPA?

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency is a Federal agency created to protect the nation's environment and public health
- Founded in 1970 under president Richard Nixon, in response to the public's growing concern with environmental issues
- Is mainly a regulatory agency, but also has a large team of field agents to enforce its laws
- Any industry with the capacity to emit pollutants are subject to EPA regulation and inspection
- The EPA also funds private environmental research programs through grants and carries out extensive research of its own

Examples of EPA Regulations

- Clean Air Act – 1970
- Occupational Safety and Health Act - 1970
- Safe Drinking Water Act – 1974
- Toxic Substances Control Act – 1976
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act – 1976
- Clean Water Act – 1977
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) - 1980
- Pollution Prevention Act – 1990

.RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

- Gives the EPA authority over all hazardous waste from its creation to its disposal
- Sets standards for treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste in the United States



.What is Hazardous Waste?

- Waste may be deemed hazardous if it is ignitable, corrosive, or reactive.
- It can also be hazardous if it contains certain amounts of toxic chemicals
- Aside from this, the EPA has also compiled a list of 500 specific hazardous wastes
- Hazardous waste may be in solid, semisolid, or liquid form
- Regulation [Title 40 Part 261](#) lays out the procedure for how to find out if a material is hazardous and subject to regulation

.Handling of Hazardous Waste

- Hazardous wastes must be tracked from its generation, to its transportation, and finally to its disposal
- [Title 40 part 262](#) establishes regulations generators of hazardous waste must follow:
 - must obtain identification number
 - Follow standards for waste accumulation, record keeping and reporting
 - Waste may be accumulated for 90 days before being required to obtain a permit for being a treatment, storage, and disposal facility



.Proper Labeling is Important!!!

- Before transporting or offering hazardous waste for transportation offsite, waste must be packaged and labeled in accordance with the department of transportations regulations regarding hazardous materials
- These regulations may be found [here](#) and include regulations such as labels must be put on easy to see surface near the shipping name, and proper labeling for flammable or corrosive substances

Toxic Substances Control Act

- Introduced in 1976 to protect the public from “unreasonable risk to health or the environment” by regulating the manufacture and sale of chemicals
- The act bans the manufacture or importation of chemicals that are not on the TSCA inventory
- Tracks over 75,000 industrial chemicals produced or imported in the United States
- Chemicals found to be unreasonably dangerous may be regulated in various ways from limiting what it can be used for, regulating its production volume, or prohibiting the production of that chemical completely

Getting Chemicals Past the EPA

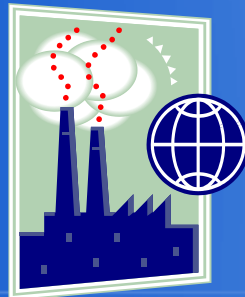
- Chemicals listed on the TSCA inventory are known as “existing chemicals” while chemicals not listed are “new chemicals”
- If a company wishes to produce a “new chemical” it must notify the EPA with a pre-manufacturing notice
- The EPA will then use computer modeling to determine if the chemical poses an unreasonable risk or not
- If the EPA does not block the manufacturer within 90 days, or it passes the product, the chemical may be legally marketed

Criticism of TSCA

- TSCA allows companies to keep the ingredients in some chemicals secret, called “trade secrets”, which prevent effective safety testing
- When TSCA was passed into law in 1976, it added 60,000 chemicals that were in existence prior to the act without any sort of proper testing of these chemicals
- Many organizations and politicians are working towards making the TSCA more effective and stricter

Clean Air Act

- Enacted in 1970 to control air pollution on a national level
- Required comprehensive federal and state regulations for both industrial and motor vehicle pollution sources
- The EPA must set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in every state
- Was amended in 1990 to account for acid rain, ozone depletion, toxic air pollution, and increased enforcement authority



What it does

- Protects against common pollutants such as smog, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and soot
- Companies which contribute to pollution must comply with the NAAQS
- Industrial pollution sources, that emit or have the potential to emit 10 tons or more of hazardous air pollutants are labeled as “Major Sources”
- Major Sources are required to obtain an air permit before commencing any construction

.Conclusion

- The EPA may lobby fines and sanctions against companies that do not follow proper EPA regulation
- ACME Chemical Company has recently received a \$40,000 fine due to improper labeling, but larger fines will be imposed if these kind of problems are not dealt with
- It is in the company and the environment's best interest to follow the rules and regulations set out by the EPA