



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
BUREAU OF WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120  
(717) 783-2071

February 10, 1993

RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR, DSDTT

Richard Niemeier  
NIOSH  
Robert A. Taft Laboratories  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati OH 45226 - 1998

Dear Mr. Niemeier:

This letter is in regard to your request for information relevant to implementation of the Worker's Family Protection Act (29 USC 671a).

The Bureau of Worker and Community Right to Know collects hazardous chemical information from certain Pennsylvania employers using several different reporting forms under one state and one federal law. Under Pennsylvania's Worker and Community Right to Know law, all employers are required to complete a Hazardous Substance Survey Form (HSSF) which is a comprehensive chemical inventory listing of all hazardous chemicals present at a facility during the previous year. Private sector employers under OSHA jurisdiction are required to have the HSSF on file while public sector employers are required to post the form.

The law also requires that employers complete an Environmental Hazard Form (EHSF) which details information about hazardous chemicals which are emitted and/or disposed from a workplace, if requested by the Department. The Department requests an EHSF from an employer upon a citizen request.

Under federal SARA Title III, the bureau collects Tier II Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms, Toxic Release Forms (TRI) and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). The Tier II lists OSHA hazardous chemicals on-site over 10,000 lbs. and or Extremely Hazardous Chemicals (EHS) in excess of their Threshold Planning Quantity or 500 lbs. whichever is less. Pennsylvania also requires a copy of a facility site plan with the Tier II for local emergency response planning purposes.

The TRI is a report from manufacturers which have manufactured or processed more than 25,000 lbs. or used more than 10,000 lbs. of a chemical on the Toxic Chemical List (40 CFR 372.65). It focuses on the amount and methods by which toxic chemicals are released into the environment.

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MSDS's are chemical specific information forms detailing important health and safety guidelines in handling the particular chemical.

Within the parameters of both laws, the public may request this information from employers via the bureau. To provide you with more in depth information, I have enclosed the following resource information under each law:

Pennsylvania Right to Know

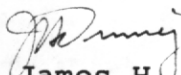
- Information pamphlet - "What It's All About"
- PA Code Title 34, Chapters 301 - 323.
- Compliance Materials for Employers - HSSF
- Environmental Hazard Survey Form
- Request for Information/Complaint Form

SARA Title III

- SARA Title III & PA Act 165 Compliance Manual
- Title III Lists of Lists

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
James H. Tinney  
Director

Enc.  
JHT/jnb