

# Tighe&Bond

Consulting Engineers / Environmental Specialists

## Regulatory News



### EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting Due July 1

The reporting year (RY) 2011 versions of [TRI-MEweb](#), the TRI [reporting forms and instructions](#), the [TRI chemical list](#) and the [Threshold Screening Tool](#) are now available for facilities to begin reporting for RY 2011. The deadline to submit TRI forms for RY 2011 is midnight on July 1, 2012. Please note that the [16 new chemicals](#) added to the TRI list in 2010 are eligible for 2011 reporting. As a reminder to facilities submitting paper forms, these can now be completed online prior to printing.

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### OSHA Publishes Revised Hazard Communication Rule

Last month, OSHA published the final rule to update the Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) to align the rule with the international Global Harmonized Standard (GHS) for hazard communication. Almost all entities covered by OSHA will be affected by this rule, and some will be impacted more than others.

As a summary, chemical manufacturers and distributors will need to update the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to comply with new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements. Containers of hazardous chemicals will all need new hazard information to comply with the standard. Facilities that use hazardous chemicals will need to update their SDS files, revise their Hazard Communication programs, and provide new training to all employees that use hazardous chemicals to comply.

There is a transition period between publication of the rule and when all of these compliance obligations need to be met. Some highlights include:

- Employee training by: December 1, 2013
- Safety Data Sheet Requirements and labeling: June 1, 2015
- Shipping prohibitions (for non-GHS labeling): December 1, 2015
- Workplace labeling and update to Hazard Communication Program: June 1, 2016

You can find the rule, which was published on March 26, 2012, [here](#).

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## New Chemical Process Regulations Are In Effect – New Compliance Requirements in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention has enacted new regulations designed to protect the public from potential hazardous material releases. The new regulations require facilities that process or use hazardous materials with a National Fire Protection Association hazard rating of 3 or above to take specific actions to enhance process safety. These requirements may include Emergency Response Plans, Flammable Material Storage Plans, Hazard Communication, Hazard analysis, and management of change depending on the quantity of hazardous materials in a process. Certain actions are required even for facilities that process hazardous materials in a vessel less than 2.5 gallons.

Compliance requirements are separated into four categories based on the volume of the hazardous material processing unit. Facilities that process hazardous materials should evaluate their operations to determine which category they are subject to and evaluate their compliance obligations under this new program. Most facilities will also require new permits issued by their local Fire Department.

A copy of the new regulation can be found in [527 CMR 33.00](#) on the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services web site.

**If you need additional information or help, contact Dave Horowitz at (413) 572-3211 or [dphorowitz@tighebond.com](mailto:dphorowitz@tighebond.com).**

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