

Planning Standards Checklist for SARA Title III Compliance

Section 303(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 requires each local emergency planning committee to prepare comprehensive hazardous substances emergency response plans. The local emergency planning committee is required to review the plan once a year, or more frequently as changed circumstances in the community or at any facility may require.

Section 303(b) requires each local emergency planning committee to evaluate the need for resources necessary to develop, implement, and exercise the emergency plan, and to make recommendations with respect to additional resources that may be required and the means for providing these additional resources.

Section 303(c) specifically states that "Each emergency management plan shall include (but is not limited to) each of the following:

- (1) Identification of facilities subject to the requirements of this subtitle that are within the emergency planning district, identification of routes likely to be used for the transportation of substances on the list of extremely hazardous substances referred to in Section 302(a), and identification of additional facilities contributing or subjected to additional risk due to their proximity to facilities subject to the requirements of this subtitle, such as hospitals or natural gas facilities.
- (2) Methods and procedures to be followed by facility owners and operators and local emergency and medical personnel to respond to any release of such substances.
- (3) Designation of a community emergency coordinator and facility emergency coordinators, who shall make determinations necessary to implement the plan.
- (4) Procedures providing reliable, effective, and timely notification by the facility emergency coordinators and the community emergency coordinator to persons designated in the emergency plan, and to the public, that a release has occurred (consistent with the emergency notification requirements of Section 304).
- (5) Methods for determining the occurrence of a release, and the area or population likely to be affected by such release.
- (6) A description of emergency equipment and facilities in the community and at each facility in the community subject to the requirements of this subtitle,

and an identification of the persons responsible for such equipment and facilities.

- (7) Evacuation plans, including provisions for a precautionary evacuation and alternative traffic routes.
- (8) Training programs, including schedules for training of local emergency response and medical personnel.
- (9) Methods and schedules for exercising the emergency plan.

For more information, please see [Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Guide, NRT-1.](#)