

Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule

Starting January 1, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will, for the first time, require large emitters of heat-trapping emissions to begin collecting greenhouse gas (GHG) data under a national reporting system. The reporting will cover approximately 85 percent of the nation's GHG emissions and apply to approximately 10,000 facilities.

EPA's new reporting system will provide a better understanding of where GHGs are coming from and will guide development of the best possible policies and programs to reduce emissions. The data will also allow businesses to track their own emissions, compare them to similar facilities, and provide assistance in identifying cost effective ways to reduce emissions in the future. This comprehensive, nationwide emissions data will help in the fight against climate change.

The rule was published in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 2009 and is effective December 29, 2009. In general, the rule requires suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial GHGs, manufacturers of vehicles and engines (outside of the light duty sector), and large industrial sources that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of GHG emissions per year to submit annual reports to EPA. The gases covered by the rule are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), and other fluorinated gases including nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃) and hydrofluorinated ethers (HFE). Reporting will typically be conducted at the facility level, except for select industries that will report at the corporate level. The first emissions reports are due on March 31, 2011 for emissions during 2010.

EPA is offering free training webinars on the rule. The schedule is posted under training opportunities on the website listed below.

For more information on the rule and to access tools such as an applicability tool, resources such as information sheets and checklist for each subpart, frequently asked questions and other useful materials, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html>. Updates on the rule are available by subscribing to the RSS feed on the website.