



## The Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA): Overview

TURA requires some businesses to report on their use of toxic chemicals, conduct toxics use reduction planning, and pay an annual fee. The TURA program also provides free services to businesses.

### **What Businesses are covered by TURA?**

TURA applies to Large Quantity Toxics Users (LQTUs) – facilities that use TURA listed chemicals above a specific threshold, employ the equivalent of ten or more full-time workers, and do any business in one or more of the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes or equivalent North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes: 10-14 (Mining), 20-39 (Manufacturing), 40, 44-49 (Transportation), 50-51 (Wholesale), 72, 73, 75, 76 (Certain Services). In 2014, 477 facilities met these criteria and reported under TURA.

### **What chemicals are listed under TURA?**

The TURA list of Toxic or Hazardous Substances includes over 1,500 chemicals or chemical categories. In 2013, 150 of these chemicals were reported by Massachusetts businesses. These chemicals were used to manufacture products, in chemical reactions, in cleaning, mixtures, and compounding, and as manufacturing aids. The complete list is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/toxics/approvals/chemlist.pdf>

### **What are the TURA reporting thresholds?**

<b>If the chemical is...</b>	<b>Then the TURA threshold is...</b>
Manufactured or processed	25,000 lb/year
Otherwise used	10,000 lb/year
Higher Hazard Substance (see TURA factsheet at <a href="http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/ota/factsheets/high-hazard-substance-faq-final.pdf">http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/ota/factsheets/high-hazard-substance-faq-final.pdf</a> )	1,000 lb/year
US EPA Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic (PBT) (Full list at <a href="http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/persistent-bioaccumulative-toxic-pbt-chemicals-covered-tri">http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/persistent-bioaccumulative-toxic-pbt-chemicals-covered-tri</a> )	100 lb, 10 lb or 0.1 gram/year, depending on the chemical

### **What are the annual reporting and planning requirements?**

Each LQTU is required to file an annual toxics use report that includes a Massachusetts Form S and a federal TRI Form R for each TURA listed chemical they manufacture, process or otherwise use above applicable thresholds.

- Form S identifies the quantity of each listed chemical used, generated as byproduct, or shipped offsite as part of a finished product.
- Form R identifies the quantity of each listed chemical that leaves the facility as a release to the environment or is transferred offsite for further management at a publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) or other waste management facility. Companies meet their TURA Form R reporting requirement when they file their federal Form Rs with EPA, unless the report is on a chemical or industry sector that is not included in the federal program.)



Every second year, LQTUs are required to prepare a Toxics Use Reduction (TUR) Plan – a technical and economic evaluation of the feasibility of implementing Toxics Use Reduction techniques at the facility. Each plan must be reviewed and approved by a state-certified Toxics Use Reduction Planner.

### ***How can TURA help my business?***

The TURA program works with businesses to reduce the use of toxic chemicals while promoting competitiveness.

From 1990 to 2013, Massachusetts businesses subject to TURA reduced toxic chemical use by 48 percent, waste by 77 percent and on-site releases by 91 percent. These businesses have also implemented initiatives to conserve energy, water, and other resources.

The Office of Technical Assistance and Technology (OTA) and the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) provide a wide variety of services to help Massachusetts businesses reduce toxics while saving money and boosting competitiveness. **These services are available to all Massachusetts businesses**, even if they are not subject to TURA requirements.

- **The Office of Technical Assistance (OTA)** is a non-regulatory agency within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs that provides free, confidential, onsite technical and compliance assistance to manufacturers, businesses and institutions. In addition to assisting with TURA related issues, OTA can assist companies with energy efficiency and water and resource conservation. These services are available free of charge to all Massachusetts businesses. For free, confidential, onsite technical assistance and compliance assistance, contact OTA at (617)-626-1080.
- The **Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI)**, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, provides education and training; sponsors research into the development of cleaner, safer materials and technologies; provides grants to companies, community organizations, and municipalities; convenes business working groups to address specific environmental challenges; conducts policy research and analysis; and provides laboratory and library services. For information on grants, laboratory services, supply chain initiatives, educational opportunities and more, contact TURI at (978)-934-3275.
- **The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)** establishes, interprets, and enforces the reporting and planning requirements, receives and reviews annual toxics use reports, and compiles, analyzes and makes the data available to the public, and certifies Toxics Use Reduction Planners. For more information on TURA program requirements, contact MassDEP at (617)-292-5711, or visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/toxics/tur/about-tura-reporting-and-fees.html>.