

What are mandatory provisions?

The NPI EPP contains mandatory provisions requiring that businesses must report to the NPI program. It reiterates the requirements outlined in the national legislation—what a company has to report and when. Failure by a business to meet these requirements may result in enforcement action.

The South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has the following enforcement options available:

- naming the offending company in the annual National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) report
- expiation fee of \$300
- maximum fine of \$4,000.

When do the changes apply?

The first report due under the new requirements will be for 2008–09. Until this time, NPI reporters will continue to report under the current requirements.

Guidance documentation on how to report the new changes and the new reporting system (online and paper reporting) will be in place in early 2008. This will allow reporters to voluntarily report the new requirements for 2007–08 if desired.

It is important to note that, due to the introduction of the EPP, reporting of the current requirements for 2007–08 will be mandatory. This includes submitting the report by the due date and providing all required information.

What do reporters need to do?

Reporting businesses need to familiarise themselves with the changes to the system and determine how their NPI reporting requirements will change for the 2008–09 reporting period.

Where can I get more information?

More information on the NPI and the changes can be found at:

- www.epa.sa.gov.au/npi.html
- www.npi.gov.au

For more information please contact:

The South Australian NPI Team
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Changes to the National Pollutant Inventory in South Australia

What are the changes and what do they mean for you?





Why is the NPI changing?

The NPI has been in place for nine years with very little change to the program. In 2004 the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) agreed that improvements could be made to the NPI so that it better meets the needs of industry, policy makers and the community. A review of the program was conducted to identify areas where improvements could be made. The review contained a number of recommendations, some of which required changes to reporting requirements listed in the legislation—*National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure (NPI NEPM)*.

The changes to the NPI, in particular the inclusion of reporting on transfers, bring the program in line with other Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers from around the world.

The South Australian equivalent of the legislation, the *Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Policy 2008* or NPI EPP has also been reviewed to reflect the NPI NEPM changes.

What are the changes to the NPI?

The changes to the NPI result from amendments to both the NPI NEPM and the NPI EPP in South Australia. The national changes include:

- Reporting on transfers of NPI substances within waste such as:
 - mandatory reporting of transfers to destinations for final disposal (eg sewer, landfills, tailing dams)

- voluntary reporting of transfers to re-use, recycling or re-processing destinations.

- Addition of three substances:
 - Acrolein: Category 1
 - Particulate matter $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$): Category 2a and 2b
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs): Category 1.
- Threshold changes:
 - Mercury: now Category 1b (5kg usage)
 - Total nitrogen and total phosphorus: if trip threshold for one, need to report on both
 - Nickel subsulfide and nickel carbonyl is now Category 1.
- Mandatory to report fuel and energy usage. Note: this information will not be published on the website.
- Use of toxic equivalent amounts when reporting 'Polychlorinated Dioxins and Furans (TEQ)' and 'Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Benzo[a]pyrene equivalent) (PAHs B[a]P_{eq})'.
- Change in publication date to 31 March each year (previously 31 January). Note: this does not affect the submission date for reporters.

In South Australia, the legislation has also been amended to reflect the changes in the NPI NEPM and include mandatory provisions for reporting to the NPI.