

The Florida Agricultural Handbook of Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation: Pollution Prevention Act (PPA)¹

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What is the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA)?

The primary purpose of the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) is to discourage the disposal of recyclable toxic substances. Under this statute, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts a yearly audit of the major users of toxic substances and producers of toxic wastes. The purpose of the audit is to determine

- whether there are better and less environmentally damaging ways to complete the task without use of toxic substances;
- whether there are ways to minimize the production of toxic wastes;

- whether there are ways to recycle the toxic substances or the containers of toxic substances.

Who is regulated under PPA?

Those regulated by the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) include the following:

- people or businesses using more than 10,000 pounds of any toxic substance per year
- people or businesses producing more than 25,000 pounds of toxic wastes per year

The statute requires an annual report to EPA concerning the use and production of toxic substances and wastes. The forms require the following information:

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- the quantity of chemical entering any waste stream prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal during the calendar year
- the amount of chemical that is recycled during the calendar year
- the amount of toxic chemical released into the environment due to a catastrophic event or remedial action
- the techniques used to identify source reduction opportunities
- the amount of chemical from the facility that has been treated during the calendar year
- source reduction practices for that chemical for the previous year

EPA cannot delegate this responsibility to the states. Thus you must report directly to EPA if this law affects you. Since toxic substances may include gasoline in underground storage tanks, pesticides, oil, et cetera, farmers are encouraged to contact EPA to see whether they fall under the requirements.

What farm pollution prevention techniques are prescribed by EPA?

In the agricultural sector, pollution prevention techniques include

- reducing the use of water and chemical inputs;
- adopting less environmentally harmful pesticides;
- cultivating crop strains with natural resistance to pests;
- protecting sensitive areas.