



Fact Sheet

What are Priority Toxic Air Contaminants and TRVs?

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority need to be able to determine health risk from breathing in a toxic air contaminant. This is often done for the [Cleaner Air Oregon program](#), our state's regulatory program to reduce harm to the health of people who live, work, or learn near industrial facilities that emit air contaminants.

Health risk is based on how harmful a contaminant is (toxicity information) and how long and what ways a person is in contact with a contaminant (exposure information). Oregon's toxicity information is based on Toxicity Reference Values, which are available for a subset of the contaminants listed on the Priority Toxic Air Contaminant List.

Priority Toxic Air Contaminant List

This list contains contaminants that are considered a priority for investigation in Oregon. The purpose of this priority list is to maintain a current and broad understanding of statewide contaminant emission over time.

For Cleaner Air Oregon, facilities called into the program must report their emissions for the contaminants on this priority list.

Approximately 600 contaminants emitted in Oregon are on the priority list.

Toxicity Reference Values

A TRV is the amount of an air contaminant that may cause health problems when inhaled.

Each contaminant could have up to three TRVs, depending on the type of health effect and whether exposure is for a long period of time (a "chronic" exposure) or short period of time (an "acute" exposure).

Currently, 259 contaminants enlisted on the priority list have TRVs.

How are TRVs developed?

Scientists examine the best available scientific research on a contaminant to develop a TRV. Setting and updating TRVs is a rigorous and resource intensive process.

Oregon TRVs are based on federal and state authoritative sources, like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. DEQ uses values from these agencies because they conduct comprehensive reviews of all available data.

Every three years, DEQ and OHA staff reviews all the authoritative sources to see if updates to the Priority Toxic Air Contaminant List and TRVs are needed based on the current knowledge and potential health concerns in Oregon.

Questions?

Please contact Apollonia Goeckner, Cleaner Air Oregon Program Coordinator, apollonia.goeckner@deq.oregon.gov with any questions.

Alternate formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.