

Miscellaneous Uses of Carbonate



Final Rule: Mandatory Reporting for Greenhouse Gases

Under the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) rule, owners or operators of facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of GHGs per year from stationary combustion, miscellaneous use of carbonates, and other source categories (see information sheet on General Provisions) must report emissions from the use of carbonates in manufacturing processes and all other source categories located at the facility for which methods are defined in this rule. Owners or operators are required to collect emission data; calculate GHG emissions; and follow the specified procedures for quality assurance, missing data, recordkeeping, and reporting.

How Is This Source Category Defined?

This source category consists of any facility that is covered by the rule and that uses any form of carbonate in a manufacturing process that emits carbon dioxide (CO₂). Carbonates covered by this rule are limestone, dolomite, ankerite, magnesite, silerite, rhodochrosite, and sodium carbonate. Facilities are considered to emit CO₂ if they consume at least 2,000 short tons per year of carbonates heated to a temperature sufficient to allow the calcination reaction to occur.

This subpart does not cover the use of carbonates consumed for producing cement, ferroalloys, glass, iron and steel, lead, lime, phosphoric acid, pulp and paper, soda ash, sodium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide, and zinc, because these processes are covered by other parts of this rule.

What GHGs Must Be Reported?

Each facility must report CO₂ process emissions for all miscellaneous carbonate use at the facility.

How Must GHG Emissions Be Calculated?

Calculate annual process emissions of CO₂ using one of the following two methods:

- Use an emission factor, the annual mass of each carbonate consumed, and the calcination fraction achieved (based on an annual emission test or assuming a value of 100 percent).
- Perform a mass balance using an emission factor and the annual mass of carbonate inputs and outputs.

A checklist for data that must be monitored is available at:

www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads/checklists/misc_uses_carbonate.pdf.

When Must Reports be Submitted?

The submission date for the annual GHG report can vary in the first 3 years of the program.

- Reporting Year 2010. The report was required to be submitted by September 30, 2011.
- Reporting Year 2011. The due date depends on which source categories are included in the report. If the report includes one or more of the source categories listed below, then the report

must be submitted by September 28, 2012. This reporting deadline applies to all subparts being reported by the facility. In addition, if the facility contains one or more of these source categories and the facility submitted a GHG annual report for reporting year 2010 under another subpart (e.g., subpart C for general stationary fuel combustion), then by April 2, 2012 you must notify EPA through e-GGRT that you are not required to submit the second annual report until September 28, 2012 (the notification deadline according to 4 CFR 98.3(b) is March 31, 2012, however, because this date falls on a Saturday in 2012, the notification is due on the next business day).

- Electronics Manufacturing (subpart I)
- Fluorinated Gas Production (subpart L)
- Magnesium Production (subpart T)
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems (subpart W)
- Use of Electric Transmission and Distribution Equipment (subpart DD)
- Underground Coal Mines (subpart FF)
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment (subpart II)
- Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide (subpart RR)
- Manufacture of Electric Transmission and Distribution (subpart SS)
- Industrial Waste Landfills (subpart TT)
- Injection of Carbon Dioxide (subpart UU)
- Imports and Exports of Equipment Pre-charged with Fluorinated GHGs or Containing Fluorinated GHGs in Closed-cell Foams (subpart QQ)

If the report contains none of the source categories listed above, then the report must be submitted by April 2, 2012 (the deadline is March 31, 2012, however, because this date falls on a Saturday, the annual report is due on the next business day).

- Reporting Year 2012. Starting in 2013 and each year thereafter, the report must be submitted by March 31 of each year, unless the 31st is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, in which case the reports are due on the next business day.

What Information Must Be Reported?

In addition to the information required by the General Provisions at 40 CFR 98.3(c) and any other subpart of this rule, facilities consuming carbonates also must report the following information at the facility level:

- Annual CO₂ emissions from carbonate use (metric tons).
- Annual mass of each carbonate type consumed (tons).
- Measurement method used to determine the mass of carbonate.
- Method used to calculate emissions.
- Number of times in the reporting year that missing data procedures were followed to measure carbonate consumption, carbonate input, or carbonate output (months).
- If using the emission factor method:
 - Annual carbonate consumption by carbonate type (tons).
 - Annual calcination fractions used in calculations.
 - The standard method used to determine calcination fraction.
- If using the mass balance method:

- Annual carbonate input by carbonate type (tons).
- Annual carbonate output by carbonate type (tons).

EPA has temporarily deferred the requirement to report data elements in the above list that are used as inputs to emission equations (76 FR 53057, August 25, 2011). For the current status of reporting requirements, including the list of data elements that are considered to be inputs to emissions equations, consult the following link: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/CBI.html>

For More Information

This document is provided solely for informational purposes. It does not provide legal advice, have legally binding effect, or expressly or implicitly create, expand, or limit any legal rights, obligations, responsibilities, expectations, or benefits in regard to any person. The series of information sheets is intended to assist reporting facilities/owners in understanding key provisions of the final rule.

Visit EPA's Web site (www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html) for more information, including the final preamble and rule, additional information sheets on specific industries, the schedule for training sessions, and other documents and tools. For questions that cannot be answered through the Web site, please contact us at: GHGreporting@epa.gov.