

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA Voluntary Programs Guide:



Specialty-Batch Chemical Sector

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EPA VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS GUIDE: SPECIALTY-BATCH CHEMICAL SECTOR

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FOREWORD

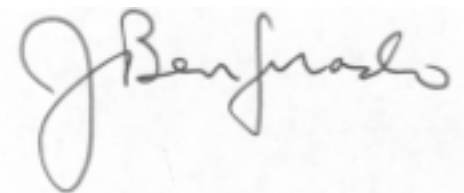
I am pleased to present the *EPA Voluntary Programs Guide for the Specialty-Batch Chemical Sector*. Voluntary approaches to improved environmental performance are an important part of the Environmental Protection Agency's innovation agenda. EPA operates many worthwhile voluntary programs that address a broad range of environmental improvement opportunities. This Guide provides a one-stop resource for specialty-batch chemical companies to learn about several voluntary programs that can be particularly helpful in achieving their environmental performance goals.

The *EPA Voluntary Programs Guide* is a product of the Sector Strategies Program, within the National Center for Environmental Innovation. The Guide was developed in partnership with the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association and EPA's Partners for the Environment program. This valuable resource was first recommended at a Specialty-Batch Chemical Sector Environmental Forum held in September 2002. Forum participants from industry and government highlighted the value of voluntary initiatives to achieve better environmental protection, urging the Agency to help companies identify the right voluntary programs to meet their needs.

Based on that recommendation, a project team conducted a complete assessment of the performance improvement opportunities presented by specialty-batch chemical facilities. The team then reviewed an inventory of EPA's current voluntary programs, ultimately matching individual programs with specific, high-priority needs.

The selected programs are presented here in two parts. The first section contains summaries of twelve voluntary programs designed for individual firms, organized by topic area. The second section summarizes four additional voluntary programs that may be of broader interest to the specialty-batch chemical industry as a whole. An appendix to this document presents more detailed information on all programs.

I hope that specialty-batch chemical firms will make good use of this Guide to decide which voluntary programs can help them achieve continuous improvement in their environmental performance. Please do not hesitate to call any of the listed program contacts; they look forward to working with you to explore the potential benefits of participation in their programs.



Jay Benforado, Director
National Center for Environmental Innovation
United States Environmental Protection Agency



The Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association (SOCMA), EPA's Sector Strategies program, and Partners for the Environment are pleased to publish *EPA Voluntary Programs Guide: Specialty-Batch Chemical Sector*. There are many voluntary EPA programs that can help the specialty batch chemical industry. For the first time, we have a guide that identifies and describes those programs that are most relevant to our industry – all in one easy-to-use document.

This guide can serve as a one-stop source for specialty-batch companies and facility managers seeking to improve environmental performance, form a collaborative relationship with EPA, and show leadership within the industry. I challenge you to find those voluntary programs which apply to your facilities. I am confident that you will find that these programs help improve your environment, health, and safety activities; assist in your implementation of Responsible Care[®]; and have a positive impact on your company's bottom line.

SOCMA has a long history of working collaboratively with the Sector Strategies program of EPA's Office of Policy and its National Center for Environmental Innovation on advocacy issues, pilot projects, speaking engagements, and compliance guides. In fact, SOCMA and EPA have also been collaborating on an EMS Guide for the specialty batch chemical manufacturers, which will be available in April – yet another example of EPA and industry leaders working together! Please take a look at the programs described in this document. Remember, such efforts help the environment, show community and industry leadership, and are complementary to our efforts in Responsible Care.

I encourage you to sign up for these voluntary programs!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Acker".

Joe Acker
President
Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association

Organizational Chart of EPA Voluntary Programs of Interest to the Specialty-Batch Chemical Sector

