

Data Quality Record for Strategic Measures

Strategic Measure Text: By September 30, 2022, complete all EPA-initiated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) risk evaluations for existing chemicals in accordance with statutory timelines

Performance Measure Text: (PM TSCA1) Number of final EPA-initiated TSCA risk evaluations completed within statutory timelines

Goal Number/Objective: Goal 1: Core Mission/Objective 1.4: Ensure Safety of Chemicals in the Marketplace

NPM Lead: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSP)/Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT)

1a. Purpose of Strategic Measure:

This strategic measure enables the agency to monitor and evaluate its progress in completing risk evaluations of TSCA existing chemicals. Under the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (TSCA amendments enacted June 2016), EPA has a base period of 3 years to complete a risk evaluation, with a possible one-time extension of up to six months. To count toward the strategic target, a risk evaluation must be completed within the statutory base period. Risk evaluations for the first ten chemicals identified for evaluation are expected to be completed by December 2019, in accordance with the 3-year statutory timeline. A history of timely completions will indicate that the agency is carrying out this statutory responsibility in compliance with the schedules set by the Congress.

To ensure timely completion of risk evaluations, EPA will closely monitor progress toward achievement of interim milestones such as the release of scoping documents (already accomplished for the first 10 chemicals); publication of the draft risk evaluation, review of public comments received during 60-day public comment period and publication of the final risk evaluation. Close adherence to the detailed series of steps laid out in EPA's Risk Evaluation Process Rule (July 2017)¹, including opportunity for public comment, will help to ensure that EPA's final risk evaluations are thorough and well supported by data.

1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

Risk evaluation: A risk evaluation conducted under TSCA, as amended, is an evaluation to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without consideration of costs or other non-risk factors, including to potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation(s) under the conditions of use identified by the Administrator for the risk evaluation (TSCA Section 6(b)(4)(A)).

EPA-initiated: A risk evaluation is initiated by EPA if: (1) the chemical is among the initial 10 chemicals selected by EPA for risk evaluation (announced December 16, 2016) or (2) the chemical substance is designated by EPA as a High-Priority Substance through the agency's prioritization process, the first cycle of which is scheduled to be completed in FY 2020.

Complete: A risk evaluation is considered complete when the final risk evaluation is published in the Federal Register.

Within statutory timelines: A risk evaluation is completed within statutory timelines if the final risk evaluation is published no later than 3 years from the date on which the risk evaluation is initiated (i.e., the base period established by law, without including the statutorily allowed up to 6-month extension).

1c. Unit of Measure: Final EPA-initiated TSCA risk evaluations completed.

2a. Data Source:

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0654-0108>

- Relevant information system: EPA’s Project Management Tool enables the agency to track progress toward the long-range strategic target via the associated annual budget measure and quarterly measure targets.
- Entity that reports data to the system: EPA/OCSPP/OPPT/RAD reports data to the system
- Frequency of reporting primary data: The Project Management Tool using Salesforce can be used to track progress toward completion of risk evaluations on a monthly, quarterly, biannual or annual basis.
- Reference to Quality Assurance Project Plan: The collection of data on risk evaluation completions is not covered under a QAPP. The actual conduct of a risk evaluation is covered by many QAPPs for several contracts.

2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:

- Baseline: As EPA is operating under new statutory authority enacted in FY 2016, there is no relevant baseline information and zero risk evaluations have been completed as of September 30, 2017.
- Progress toward strategic target (timely completions of final EPA-initiated TSCA risk evaluations) is monitored via the associated GPRA Budget Measure, reported annually, and the associated Quarterly Measure and Agency Priority Goal, reported quarterly.
- Universe includes all existing chemical risk evaluations conducted pursuant to Section 6 of TSCA, as amended. Effective December 2019, as required by statute, EPA will have 20 risk evaluations underway at all times for high priority chemicals identified by the agency.

3. Methodology:

The performance result is the number of EPA-initiated TSCA risk evaluations completed within statutory timelines, based on simple counting. No further calculation or aggregation is needed.

4. Data Limitations/Qualifications:

Since the completion of a risk evaluation is defined in terms of publication in the Federal Register, no significant data limitations are anticipated and there is minimal if any possibility of error in reporting performance results.

5. Technical Contact:

Jeffrey Dawson, Acting Director, Risk Assessment Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, 202-564-3810

6. Certification Statement/Signature

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

DAA Signature Orsa Macaul