



Factsheet

Status March 2015

The Swiss Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (SwissPRTR)

The SwissPRTR is Switzerland's publicly accessible Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. It provides information on releases of specific pollutants to air, water or land, on transfers of waste, and on transfers of pollutants in waste water. The SwissPRTR thus contributes to the information available to the general public on the environment and to the reduction of environmental pollution in Switzerland.

This Factsheet explains the benefits of the SwissPRTR for industry and highlights its relationship to the enforcement measures currently being taken.

Benefits of the SwissPRTR for industrial facilities

The **SwissPRTR** contributes to

- **creating transparency,**
- **providing a basis for management decisions,**
- **improving eco-efficiency and productivity,**
- **compliance with social responsibilities** in relation to employees and the general public.

The SwissPRTR is based on the UNECE PRTR Protocol and is therefore **compatible** with international agreements.

The SwissPRTR contributes to the sustainable development of production facilities.

SwissPRTR website

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/swissprtr>

The SwissPRTR **contributes towards transparency**

- Data on releases of pollutants and transfers of waste and pollutants in waste

water are of benefit to management systems, such as *ISO 14001*.

- Processes can be optimised. The efficiency of processes can be increased by the reduction or avoidance of releases of pollutants or waste.
- Knowledge of links between operational processes, the use of chemicals and the resulting releases of pollutants or waste can be extended.

The SwissPRTR **creates trust** through improved communication

- The data is verified, made available to the public and can be inspected at any time.
- Participant facilities can publicise the improvements they have achieved proactively, thus furthering their good reputation and making themselves stand out in comparison with competitors.
- facilities can improve their relationship with the general public and the authorities through the open communication of results.

SwissPRTR encourages **competitiveness**

- The identification of the potential to reduce costs acts as an incentive for finding innovative solutions that can improve environmental performance and lead to sustainable increases in productivity.

The SwissPRTR encourages the **long-term planning of measures**

- The availability of reliable data on releases of pollutants allows the authorities to collaborate with the industries and facilities concerned on the long-term planning of measures.

The SwissPRTR reporting requirement

- The reporting requirement for the SwissPRTR focuses on important specific

sources. The target is the direct recording of around 80% of pollutant releases.

- A separate Factsheet “Who is affected?” has been produced to allow facilities to establish whether they are subject to the reporting requirement.
- In order to avoid the duplication of reports by facilities, provision is made to authorise the FOEN to make use of data that has already been reported for the purpose of the SwissPRTR.
- For a long time, releases from diffuse sources have already been recorded throughout Switzerland via the trade associations concerned. This will continue in an analogous manner. Reference will be made to this data in the SwissPRTR.

The SwissPRTR and current enforcement measures

- The SwissPRTR does not replace current enforcement measures, but opens up new avenues for the future-oriented management of releases of pollutants, transfers of waste and transfers of pollutants in waste water.

Experience gained from systems established abroad indicates that voluntary measures can be introduced at a reasonable cost using PRTRs. This means that in the first instance facilities take measures that are regarded as worthwhile on a cost and volume basis.