Responsible Distribution
The Smart Way Forward

Advancing Stewardship, Creating Connections™
In over 40 years of service to its members, NACD has placed its highest priority on the health, safety, and security of employees, communities, and the environment.

In December 1991, the member companies of NACD undertook its most important mission ever—the inception of Responsible Distribution, developed by NACD members for NACD members.

Responsible Distribution is a mandatory, third-party verified environmental, health, safety & security program that lets members demonstrate their commitment to continuous performance improvement in every phase of chemical storage, handling, transportation, and disposal. It also serves to demonstrate their sensitivity and responsiveness to public concerns, and helps them, as elite distributors, be leaders in their communities, eager to work with local, state, and federal legislators.

Members enjoy comprehensive guidance and resources as they implement Responsible Distribution, such as its Mentoring Program, which offers one-on-one consultation with Responsible Distribution experts; other resources include mock audits, workshops, Webinars, and a wide variety of online tools.

There are many profound benefits including: members can lower their occurrences of safety and environmental incidents, enjoy better documentation of company policies, see better communication with their local community, share best practices and quality systems they can employ throughout operations, reduce their audit costs and decrease the time spent on audits, save on insurance expenses, enjoy flexibility of implementation and oversight for each member, improve their marketplace visibility and earn credibility through performance.

2010 marks the beginning of NACD's fourth three-year cycle for Responsible Distribution verifications. The process requires two separate verifications conducted by independent third-party firms designated by NACD. The first of which is a document verification of policies and procedures; this is conducted once when a member joins. The second is an on-site verification of the implementation of these policies and procedures. Third, after the initial on-site verification, it is repeated a minimum of once every three years at each member company.

In 2009, NACD members achieved a handling/storage safety record of 99.9997%, averaged just one traffic incident every 700,000 miles driven and had a safety record twice as good as the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2011 goal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) report for 2008 showed that the Chemical Distribution sector is the second best industry (behind Apparel) in lowest releases, with NACD members practicing Responsible Distribution having 72% less releases than non-NACD members.