

# **Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015**

**Guidance for COMAH operators inputting public information onto  
the HSE web-based system**

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## Abbreviations/Acronyms

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Competent Authority   | CA    |
| Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations | CHIP  |
| Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations 2008            | CLP   |
| Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015                  | COMAH |
| COMAH Intervention Manager  | CIM   |
| Environmental Information Regulations                               | EIR   |
| European Union  | EU    |
| Health and Safety Executive   | HSE   |
| Major Accident Prevention Policy                                    | MAPP  |
| Public Information Zone   | PIZ   |
| Safety Management System  | SMS   |

## About this guidance

1. This guidance aims to help dutyholders to input the public information relevant to their establishment onto a web-based system on HSE's website. Regulation 17 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 (see 'References and Further Reading' section) requires that core information must be made available to the public by all establishments; there are extra provisions for upper-tier establishments.
2. Detailed guidance on the COMAH Regulations 2015 is contained in the publication 'A Guide to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015', referred to in this document as 'L111 guidance' (see 'References and Further Reading Section').

## Who should read the guidance?

3. Operators of COMAH establishments should find this guidance useful.

## How the guidance is set out

4. Throughout this guidance the dutyholder is referred to as 'you', the 'web-based system on HSE's website' is referred to as 'the system' and the COMAH Regulations 2015 are referred to as the COMAH Regulations.
5. It also sets out the various arrangements depending on the type of establishment. You can find the definitions for 'new', 'existing' and 'other' establishments in regulation 2(1) and supporting information in the [L111 guidance](#).
6. Annex 1 contains a complete list of the drop down descriptors. Annex 2 is a list of 'References and Further Reading'.

## Timescales

7. The system will allow you to enter partially completed information and save it for future completion. However, you need to be mindful that the COMAH Regulations require that the public information must be completed using the system 'within a reasonable period of time' after your establishment has become subject to the regulations. Normally this would be no longer than three to four months.

## Background

8. The Seveso III Directive was adopted on 4 July 2012 and implemented in Great Britain by the COMAH Regulations which came into force on 1 June 2015. One of the changes from the COMAH Regulations 1999 is that all establishments, including lower-tier ones, must provide basic public information electronically. There are additional requirements for upper-tier establishments including information relevant to the Public Information Zone (PIZ). Further information about this is available in the L111 guidance.
9. The COMAH Regulations define dangerous substances using the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation 2008, (see 'References and Further Reading' section' and the L111 guidance).
10. The information for the public can be input onto the system via a template which contains a series of drop-down lists. You can decide which descriptors from the list are relevant to your establishment. The information must be kept up to date so the system will allow you to update and re-submit the information whenever it changes. You will be responsible for the accuracy of the data you provide as entries will not be checked by the Competent Authority prior to publication.
11. Operators of upper-tier establishments will need to continue separately providing information within the PIZ. Although the electronic public information (regulation 17) will be a useful starting point, it will need to be put into context and made into site specific information for the purposes of the PIZ. If you update the public information you will need to ensure the PIZ information is also

updated and consider redistributing to those in the PIZ. Similarly, if you change the PIZ information you will need to consider updating the public information where relevant.

12. An introduction for the public about the information is available on HSE's website and will also be included as part of the output. It provides a brief overview of the COMAH Regulations and how they are enforced, assurance that operators have to manage and control risks at their establishment, a brief explanation of the meanings of upper and lower-tier and links to further information.
13. For members of the public who do not have access to information technology but may wish to see the public information you should be prepared to provide a hard copy upon request.

### **Preparation before input**

14. Before starting to input your information you will need to:

- As far as possible make sure you have all the relevant information to hand.
- Check your inventories and classify the dangerous substances in accordance with the CLP Regulation and Schedule 1 (for new/other establishments).
- Convert your inventory of dangerous substances from CHIP to CLP – (for existing establishments).
- Make yourself familiar with the options available for selection within the system (Annex 1). Some of the drop down descriptors have been modified for ease of reference so the wording is not identical to that in CLP. When making your selections you will need to make a judgement about what is most relevant to the dangerous substances at your establishment that come under the COMAH Regulations. You may wish to keep a detailed justification for the selections you have made for possible discussion with your COMAH Intervention Manager (CIM) during a site visit.
- Ensure the information relates to on and off-site risks. For example, if you are an operator of an upper-tier establishment you may:
  - use information from your safety report or external emergency plan (when completed) to identify the major accident hazards, major accident scenarios, control measures and the potential effects on human health and the environment. This may result in some large companies selecting virtually all of the descriptors in some of the drop-down lists;
  - identify information about dealing with off-site effects and co-operation with the emergency services from the external emergency plan.
- Ensure all the information is accurate and up to date and that web-links are active.

If your establishment is Lower-tier you may need to refer to the MAPP and SMS or discuss aspects of emergency planning with your local emergency planning authority.

It may be helpful to have available a copy of the L111 guidance.

15. If you are an existing establishment you will be informed by HSE of an access code around the time that the system goes live. You will need to use this code to access the system. If you are a new/other establishment you will receive the access code following submission of your notification to HSE.
16. Multi-establishment operators need to complete the public information for each establishment; this is because there is a unique access code for each establishment (see below).

## How to input the information

17. Completion of the template is fairly self-explanatory; 'Help' buttons  are included. The following points may be useful to know before starting:

- The key to open your establishment record is a combination of the unique access code and an email address. HSE will provide you with the access code and a default email address which you will be prompted to change when you first go into the system with an email address of your choice (Part 1 – 'Establishment Details'). This combination will be known only by you and therefore you control access to your records. HSE can reset both the establishment reference and email address if necessary.
- All mandatory fields (marked with an asterisk\* on the template) must be completed before the system allows you to move to the next page;
- The drop down lists can be accessed by clicking on the  button;
- When inputting the information you will find that some of the drop-down lists for the longer descriptors have a shorter phrase assigned to them for selection during input. When you select the shortened phrase you will be able to see the actual text that the public will see in the box below 'How this will be presented in the Public Information';
- If you have any problems with the selections available in the drop-down lists you should contact your CIM;
- A 'Form Preview' option appears on each page which will enable you to check your selections as you input the information.

## Part 1 - Information for all Establishments - a guide to the fields

### Establishment details

*Operator Legal name, trading as, site name and establishment address*

18. These fields will be pre-populated via prior communication with HSE. The system will not include PO Box numbers in the address field as they are often not site specific. The public will be able to search the system for your published information by postcode, operator name or establishment name. Searching via postcode will require the public to input the full postcode, including spaces.

*Is this establishment subject to the COMAH Regulations?*

19. This is a 'Yes' or 'No' tick box. In most cases the answer will be 'Yes'. To decide whether your establishment falls within the COMAH regime you should refer to Schedule 1, Parts 1 and 2 of the COMAH Regulations. If the dangerous substances at your establishment, (you will need to include any that are likely to be present) are listed in this schedule and the quantities equal or exceed the threshold quantities, your establishment will be subject to the COMAH Regulations.

20. If you select "No" the system will not allow you to proceed as you do not need to provide public information unless the COMAH Regulations apply to your establishment. You will receive a message from the system about how to remove an existing record from the database.

*Is this an upper-tier or lower-tier establishment?*

21. This should be self-explanatory. If you are a new establishment you will be able to decide which tier your establishment falls into by referring to Schedule 1, Parts 1 and 2 of the COMAH Regulations. Further information is also available in Annex 1 of the L111 guidance.

*Has a notification been submitted to the competent authority?*

22. You need to select the appropriate tick box, ie 'yes' or 'pending'. If you are an 'existing' establishment and you have previously submitted a notification under the COMAH Regulations

1999 you should select the 'yes' box, under the transitional provisions in regulation 33. However, this does not detract from the requirement that all existing establishments who have notified under the 1999 Regulations will have to notify HSE by 1 June 2016 under the new COMAH Regulations. This is because of the changes in classification of dangerous substances from CHIP to CLP.

23. If you are an 'other' establishment and your establishment moves tier (ie from lower to upper-tier and vice versa) or you are a 'new' establishment, you may need to select the 'pending' box. However, you will need to revisit the system and update and resubmit the information following submission of your notification to the Competent Authority.

24. Further information about Notifications is available in the L111 guidance.

*Date of last planned COMAH site visit by the Competent Authority*

25. Although this is not a mandatory field, if you have received a visit from the COMAH Competent Authority you must complete this field and keep it up to date. It relates to the actual date of the last planned COMAH visit, in line with the intervention plan for your establishment. It does not relate to unplanned interventions such as investigations.

26. If you receive multiple visits within a time period (eg across a number of weeks or months) which are interrelated and connected with inspections in your intervention plan you need only input the final visit date. Updating this field, on a six monthly basis for example, would be acceptable for the small number of establishments with multiple inspections programmed throughout the year.

27. If you are an existing establishment, please enter the date of your last planned COMAH visit even if it was before 1 June 2015 when the COMAH Regulations came into force.

28. If your establishment is new to the COMAH regime and you have not received a visit from the COMAH Competent Authority you can leave this field blank but you will need to update it following a visit.

*More detailed information about the inspection/related inspection plan*

29. This is a pre-populated field which directs the public to the COMAH web-pages on HSE's website. Any information requested will be treated as environmental information held by the CA under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (see 'References and Further Reading' section). If the requested information is likely to contain sensitive information which may be exempted from release under the EIR discussion will be held with the operator before release.

*Details of where further relevant information can be obtained*

30. This is a pre-populated field which advises that further relevant information can be obtained from the operator of the establishment. It is anticipated that members of the public who require more information will contact you either via your website, letter, email or telephone.

*Activity/activities at the establishment*

31. The list of activities is derived from an EU reporting system set up by the European Commission. It has been slightly modified and includes some additional activities thought to be relevant to UK establishments. You need to select the most appropriate activity/activities for your establishment. The category 'Other activity' should only be used if an appropriate category for your establishment is not available from the list.

**Information about relevant dangerous substances at this establishment which could cause a major accident**

*Hazard classification of relevant dangerous substances*

32. This is a list of hazard classifications relevant to the dangerous substances at your establishment. It is a modified list which should cover the hazardous substances at your establishment but if it doesn't it will be acceptable to group substances into common classifications. Any of the named

carcinogens should be assigned to the drop down descriptor 'Other health hazards (named carcinogen)'.

33. You will need to classify the named substances in the COMAH Regulations that you have at your establishment and include them in your selection. This should include anticipated presence of dangerous substances due to loss of control if appropriate for the major accident hazards. The classification/s you select should reflect the key major accident hazards at your establishment.
34. If your substances fit into a number of categories you will need to select all the categories which apply that contribute to your major accident hazards eg if your establishment holds Fluorine which is an Oxidising Gas and Acute Toxic 2 you should select both 'Oxidising Gases' and 'Toxic' from the drop down list.

*Principal dangerous characteristics of the substances (in simple terms)*

35. The COMAH Regulations require that the principal dangerous characteristics are given in 'simple terms'. The drop-down list reflects this requirement.
36. The descriptors are derived from the CLP hazard statements which are relevant to the 'categories of dangerous substances' and the 'named dangerous substances' in Schedule 1, Parts 1 and 2 of the COMAH Regulations.
37. You will need to review your safety data sheets for relevant hazard statements for your dangerous substances. You will need to select those which you consider most closely reflect the 'principal dangerous characteristics' of those substances.
38. For multi-classified substances the public information only needs to include the characteristics that are relevant to the COMAH Regulations. For example, Arsenic Pentoxide has health hazards (Acute Toxic 3 by inhalation and ingestion) and environmental hazards (Chronic and Acute 1), but Acute Toxic 3 by ingestion is not covered by the COMAH Regulations.
39. You should select only the 'principal dangerous characteristics' that apply. If none are relevant you should select 'Other hazard phrase applies'.

*General information about how the public will be warned and what they should do in the event of an emergency*

40. This requirement relates to general information for the public about the action they should take in an emergency. It is unlikely to be sufficient to replace any emergency information for those who live/work in close proximity to an upper-tier establishment ((ie the Public Information Zone (PIZ) – for upper-tier establishments only).
41. From the drop-down list you will need to select the emergency information which is the most relevant for your establishment. This information should reflect the information in your MAPP/External Emergency Plan. For lower-tier establishments you could try to engage with your local emergency planners/local resilience forum to discuss the information you should select from the drop-down list.
42. If you have been notified under regulation 24 by the CA that your establishment is in a domino group you will need to speak to the other operators in the group to exchange suitable information in preparation for input about how the public will be warned in an emergency.

*Where emergency information can be accessed electronically*

43. This is an alternative to the above requirement, but can be completed in addition to the above if you wish.
44. If you select this option you will need to provide information such as an appropriate web-site address which the public can access for general information about how they will be warned and what they should do in the event of an emergency. The web-site address that you provide can be either for your establishment or your local resilience forum as long as it contains the relevant information.

## **Part 2 – Public Information for upper-tier establishments only - a guide to the fields**

*Has a safety report been submitted to the Competent Authority?*

45. You need to select the appropriate tick box, ie 'Yes' or 'Pending' indicating that the safety report has been submitted or the submission is pending.
46. If you are an existing establishment and you have previously submitted a safety report under the COMAH Regulations 1999 you should select the 'Yes' box, under the transitional provisions in regulation 33. In doing so you will need to ensure you have complied with the transitional arrangements, further information is available in the L111 guidance.
47. If your establishment has moved from lower-tier to upper-tier or you have just entered the COMAH regime at upper-tier it is unlikely that you will have a safety report available straight away so you will need to select the 'Pending' option. However, you will need to comply with the timetable in the COMAH Regulations for submission of your safety report, please see L111 guidance. Following submission of your safety report you will need to revisit the system, update and re-submit the information.

### **Information about the major accident hazards and scenarios and the control measures in place at this establishment to address them**

*Nature of major accident hazards*

48. The 'nature of major accident hazards' are set out as check boxes. It is a multi-choice selection. You should select those that are appropriate to your establishment.
49. This information should reflect the information in your safety report and/or your external emergency plan. If necessary it should be updated and resubmitted when the external emergency plan has been produced by the local authority.

*Main types of major accident scenarios*

50. The drop-down list, which is a multi-choice selection list, contains the main types of major accident scenarios. You should select those appropriate to your establishment. Only the main types are required so it does not have to be an exhaustive list.
51. This information should reflect the major accident scenarios in your safety report and/or your external emergency plan.

*Control measures to address the major accident scenarios*

52. Again, this is a multi-choice selection list. The control measures have been split into categories so you need to select the category followed by the actual control measure/s within that category. You should select as many 'control measures' as appropriate for your establishment. If your establishment is very large you may find that you need to select most, if not all of them. The system will allow you to do this.
53. The control measures should reflect those in your safety report.

### **The potential consequences of major accidents**

*Potential consequences on human health*

54. This multi-choice selection list contains a comprehensive set of potential consequences on human health that could result from major accident hazards. The potential consequences have been split into categories so you will need to select a category followed by the potential consequence within that category. When selecting the categories you should ensure they are consistent the 'principle dangerous characteristics' you have selected.
55. You should select those that reflect the major accident hazards identified above. The information should be consistent with your safety report and/or your external emergency plan.

### *Potential consequences on the environment*

56. This multi-choice selection list contains a comprehensive set of possible consequences on the environment that could result from major accident hazards. In making your selection you should ensure it is consistent with the 'principle dangerous characteristics' you have selected.
57. You should select those that reflect the major accident hazards identified above. This information should be consistent with your safety report and/or your external emergency plan.

### **Confirmation that arrangements are in place within the establishment to deal with major accidents and minimise their consequences**

58. This is a tick box selection displaying two options. You should select the one most appropriate to your establishment, ie 'Internal emergency plan prepared' or 'Internal emergency plan is being prepared'.
59. Under COMAH, existing Upper Tier establishments have to prepare an internal emergency plan by 1 June 2016. If you have one in place under the COMAH Regulations 1999 you can select the option that an internal emergency plan has been prepared.
60. New establishments going through the process of preparing an internal emergency plan should select the option that the plan is at the preparation stage. If this applies to your establishment you will need to remember to update and re-submit the information once the plan is in place.
61. Other establishments have to prepare an internal emergency plan within two years of becoming a COMAH establishment. If this is the case for your establishment you will need to select the option that the internal emergency plan is being prepared. You will need to update and re-submit the information once the plan is in place.
62. Further information about internal emergency plans can be found in the L111 guidance.

### *Appropriate information from the external emergency plan about consequences outside the establishment from a major accident*

63. This section is pre-populated with a statement advising the public that they should co-operate with any instructions or requests from the emergency services in the event of an accident.
64. The drop-down list provides a selection of statements. You should select those most relevant to your establishment that are consistent with the potential consequences outside the establishment as selected in the major accident scenarios.
65. If the Local Authority is currently preparing an external emergency plan for your establishment there is a drop down descriptor to reflect that the plan is in preparation. You will need to update and re-submit the information once the plan is finalised.
66. Further information on timescales for preparation of external emergency plans can be found in the L111 guidance.

### *If there was a major accident at this establishment could it impact on another country which is part of the European Union?*

67. The purpose of this information is to protect human health and the environment against major accidents capable of causing effects on other member states, known as 'transboundary effects'. You will need to have considered this when compiling your safety report but given Great Britain's island status it is very unlikely that 'transboundary effects' will apply. However, if you think this could apply to your establishment you should discuss it with your CIM. You will need to select either 'Yes'/'No'.

### **What to do upon completion of the template**

68. Before submitting your information to the system you will be able to preview the whole template via the 'Form Preview' option on the last page.

69. If you have completed all the fields in the template you should click on the 'Complete' box. If the template is incomplete you should select the 'Draft' option and the system will save the template for future completion.
70. When your information is complete and you wish to submit it to the system you will need to complete the email address and confirm it. You may choose a different email address from the one you used at page 1 of the template if you prefer. This email address will be used to send you an acknowledgement of your submission and a copy of your completed form.

**What to do if you experience any problems with the template**

71. If you experience any problems when completing the template please contact HSE via the following email address [connectpi@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:connectpi@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex 1 - Drop-down descriptors

**Field name:** Activity/activities at the establishment

|  |
|--|
| Agriculture  |
| Building and works of engineering construction   |
| Ceramics (bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc)   |
| Chemical installations - distribution  |
| Chemical installations – storage/warehousing   |
| Chemicals manufacture/ production and/or disposal – general (not otherwise specified in the list)        |
| Distillation, maturation, blending, packaging and/or storage, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages |
| Electronics and electrical engineering   |
| Fuel storage/distribution  |
| General engineering, manufacturing and assembly  |
| General manufacture and/or storage and/or distribution (not otherwise specified)                         |
| Handling and transportation centres (ports, airports, lorry parks, marshalling yards, etc)               |
| Leisure and sport activities (eg ice rink)   |
| Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster  |
| Manufacture of food products and beverages   |
| Manufacture of glass   |
| Medical, research, education (including hospitals, universities etc)                                     |
| Mining activities  |
| Petrochemical/oil refineries   |
| Plastic and rubber manufacture   |
| Power generation, supply and distribution  |
| Processing of ferrous metals (foundries, smelting, etc)  |
| Processing of metals   |
| Processing of metals using electrolytic or chemical processes  |
| Processing of non-ferrous metals (foundries, smelting, etc)  |
| Production and manufacturing of pulp and paper   |
| Production and storage of pesticides, biocides, fungicides, herbicides                                   |
| Production and/or storage of fertilizers   |
| Production of basic organic chemicals  |
| Production of inorganic chemicals  |
| Production of pharmaceuticals (intermediates and/or finished products)                                   |
| Ship building, ship breaking, ship repair  |
| Textiles manufacturing and treatment   |
| Waste storage, treatment and disposal  |
| Water and sewage collection, supply, treatment   |
| Wholesale and retail storage and distribution (excluding fuel)   |
| Wood treatment and furniture   |
| Other activity (not otherwise specified in the list)   |

**Field name: Hazard classification of relevant dangerous substances**

|   |
|---|
| Energetic materials   |
| Dangerous substances/mixtures that react adversely with water                                       |
| Flammable aerosols  |
| Flammable liquids and gases   |
| Hazardous to the aquatic environment  |
| Oxidising gases   |
| Oxidising liquids and/or solids   |
| Petroleum products and alternative fuels  |
| Pyrophoric liquids and/or solids  |
| Self-reactive substances and mixtures and organic peroxides   |
| Toxic   |
| Other health hazards (named carcinogen)   |
| Other hazards (which fall into Category O1 – O3 in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the COMAH Regulations 2015) |

**Field name: Principal dangerous characteristics of the substances (in simple terms)**

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| Causes damage to organs             |
| Causes skin burns and eye damage    |
| Fire/explosion                      |
| Flammable – gas, aerosol, liquid    |
| Gases under pressure                |
| Heating may cause fire/explosion    |
| May cause an allergic skin reaction |
| May cause cancer                    |
| May cause genetic defects           |
| May cause respiratory irritation    |
| Reacts adversely with water         |
| Toxic if inhaled                    |
| Toxic if swallowed                  |
| Toxic in contact with skin          |
| Toxic to aquatic life               |
| Other hazard phrase applies         |

**Field name: General information about how the public will be warned and what they should do in the event of an emergency**

This is general information for the public and does not replace any emergency information already provided if you live/work in close proximity to an upper-tier COMAH establishment

|   |
|---|
| If a major accident occurs members of the public who may be affected will be warned by an intermittent tone from the site siren |
| When the danger has passed the siren will sound a long continuous tone  |
| If a major accident occurs members of the public who may be affected will be warned by a continuous                             |

|   |
|---|
| siren   |
| If a major accident occurs members of the public who may be affected will be warned by one or more of multiple sirens   |
| If a major accident occurs members of the public who may be affected will be warned by the police or by a phone call  |
| In the event of a major accident members of the public are advised to go indoors, stay in and tune in to local radio/TV station   |
| Advice about the action to take in the event of a major accident will be given by local radio/TV station  |
| Advice about the action to take in the event of a major accident will be available on the local authority website   |
| Advice about the action to take in the event of a major accident will be available from this COMAH operator's website   |
| Advice about the action to take in the event of a major accident will be available via social media   |
| If a major accident occurs members of the public who may be affected should remain indoors until they hear the all-clear signal or receive instructions from the police |
| Members of the public are advised to co-operate with any instructions or requests from the emergency services in the event of an accident                               |

**Field name: Nature of major accident hazards**

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| Accidental release of dangerous substances |
| Explosion                                  |
| Extreme cold                               |
| Fire                                       |
| Oxygen depletion                           |
| Oxygen enrichment                          |

**Field name: Main types of major accident scenarios**

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| Explosion - Levels of blast overpressure which may be harmful to humans and animals and damage buildings. Projectiles travelling at high speeds may also spread from the explosion presenting a risk to people, animals and damage buildings. Explosions may also initiate fires.  |
| Fire – Ranges from an intense fire lasting several seconds to large fires lasting several minutes or hours. Potential for fire damage to people and the environment and fires may spread to other areas, a drifting cloud of flammable gas may ignite. Fires may generate smoke clouds which may lead to breathing difficulties and deposition of soot on property and vegetation. |
| Liquid release - liquid flowing on-site and off-site to sewer, freshwater, estuarine waters, coastal waters, land or groundwater. Damage to people and the environment. Environmental pollution and contamination of drinking water supplies   |
| Release of contaminated fire water containing dangerous substances - to sewer, freshwater, estuarine waters, coastal waters, land or groundwater   |
| Release of extremely cold liquids  |
| Release of liquid oxygen   |
| Release of oxidising substances - flowing on-site and off-site to sewer, controlled waters or groundwater  |
| Release of substances causing a decrease in oxygen levels  |

Toxic gas or smoke – a gas cloud or smoke plume (includes ecotoxic smoke) containing dangerous substances

**Field name: Control measures to address the major accident scenarios**

|  |
|--|
| Access to the site is strictly controlled  |
| Air pollution prevention systems are in place  |
| Air quality monitoring systems are in place  |
| All of the establishments storage tanks, process vessels, pipework and control systems are designed and maintained to prevent major accidents  |
| Arrangements are in place for regular safety inspections of plant and processes  |
| Arrangements are in place to ensure all employees have the necessary skills and competencies to do their job and deal with any emergencies that arise  |
| Arrangements are in place to inform, instruct, train and supervise the workforce   |
| Arrangements are in place to monitor, track and improve health and safety systems  |
| Arrangements are in place to prevent or minimise loss of containment of dangerous substances   |
| Buildings on site are designed and arranged to prevent or minimise knock-on effects of an incident   |
| Chemical spillage prevention systems are in place  |
| Containment systems are in place for relevant work areas to minimise the loss of spilled material to the environment   |
| Decontamination procedures are in place  |
| Detectors are in place to alert managers of any loss of containment  |
| Emergency arrangements are in place to notify the local water company if dangerous substances are accidentally released into groundwater or freshwater used for drinking water supply              |
| Emergency arrangements are in place to notify the operator of the local sewage works if dangerous substances are accidentally discharged into the sewer  |
| Emergency response systems and procedures are in place   |
| Establishment carries out maintenance and inspection to keep equipment in good working order   |
| Establishment has a detailed way of working with policy, operating standards and a health, safety and environmental management system to maintain and improve safety and environmental performance |
| Establishment has an automatic/manual fire alarm system connected to a central monitoring station and/or the fire service  |
| Establishment has facilities for extraction and ventilation of flammable materials to prevent them causing fires and explosions  |
| Establishment has facilities to detect and manage releases of gases that may have harmful effects  |
| Establishment has facilities to detect releases of gases and has taken steps to minimise the chance that any releases are ignited  |
| Establishment has on-site response facilities to reduce the impact of an incident  |
| Establishment has taken steps to deal with severe weather conditions   |
| Good communication systems are in place, internally and with outside agencies to prevent/mitigate major accidents  |
| Incompatible materials are segregated and stored separately  |
| Isolation procedures are in place to prevent or reduce the extent of an incident   |
| Key operating units and storage facilities are fitted with automatic shutdown and isolation systems  |

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| Key operating units and/or relevant warehouses/storage facilities are fitted with fire detection and/or suppressant and/or protection systems. |
| Key operating units and storage facilities have containment systems in place to keep chemicals and firewater on-site                           |
| Overpressure prevention systems are in place as necessary  |
| Procedures are in place to control the activities of contractors or visitors to the site   |
| Procedures are in place to manage any changes at the site that could impact on health, safety and the environment                              |
| Procedures are in place to manage older processing plant and equipment   |
| Procedures are in place to select, use and manage appropriate equipment  |
| Procedures in place to identify and manage deviations from normal operating conditions   |
| There is elimination of all potential ignition sources to protect against the ignition of flammable material                                   |
| Traffic management arrangements are in place   |

**Field name: Potential consequences on human health**

|  |
|--|
| Airborne material, if inhaled can cause burning of the eyes and throat, coughing or breathing difficulties   |
| Breathing air with high concentrations of gases other than oxygen can lead to asphyxiation and/or poisoning, which could result in a risk of death |
| Breathing air with high concentrations of gases other than oxygen can lead to asphyxiation and/or poisoning, which could result in unconsciousness |
| Direct contact with liquefied gases has the potential to cause frostbite or cold burns and severe damage to eyes                                   |
| Disorientation and loss of direction may occur due to reduced visibility because of the presence of dense smoke                                    |
| Dust harmful if swallowed  |
| Dust possibly fatal if swallowed   |
| Environmental pollution and contamination of drinking water supplies   |
| Harmful if inhaled   |
| Harmful in contact with skin (irritation/damage to eyes or skin)   |
| Inhalation could cause cancer  |
| Injuries (possibly fatal) caused by flying debris etc being ejected from the incident site.  |
| Injuries (possibly fatal) from falling buildings   |
| Injuries caused by fragments etc being ejected from the incident site  |
| Injuries from being blown over by blast pressure   |
| Low possibility of injury due to debris from building collapse. Escape from buildings is expected before any collapse                              |
| People who are generally fit and well are unlikely to experience long-term health problems from temporary exposure to smoke from fire              |
| Potential for burns to body  |
| Potential for burns to body (possibly life threatening)  |
| Potentially fatal if inhaled   |

|  |
|--|
| Prolonged exposure to intense cold may lead to hypothermia   |
| Remote chance of reduction of oxygen in air  |
| Remote possibility of oxygen enrichment  |
| Risk of eardrum damage from blast  |
| Single exposure by inhalation could lead to damage of certain internal organs  |
| Substantial exposure to toxic chemicals (potentially fatal)  |
| Traumatic injuries are possible due to being hit by flying fragments and objects                                       |
| Very dense smoke may cause drowsiness or unconsciousness   |
| Very dense smoke may cause irritation of the lining of the air passages (nose, throat and lungs) the skin and the eyes |
| There are no potential consequences on human health from the major accident hazards identified                         |

**Field name: Potential consequences on the environment**

|   |
|---|
| Dangerous substances contaminating groundwater  |
| Dangerous substances contaminating listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments rendering them inaccessible to the general public  |
| Dangerous substances discharged to sewer, causing harm to the bacteria in the sewage treatment works resulting in the discharge of untreated sewage into freshwater or estuarine waters causing harm to the aquatic environment                   |
| Dangerous substances discharged to sewer, causing harm to the bacteria in the sewage treatment works resulting in the discharge of untreated sewage into coastal waters causing harm to the marine environment                                    |
| Dangerous substances discharged to sewer, passing through the sewage treatment works, being discharged into freshwater or estuarine waters and causing harm to the aquatic environment  |
| Dangerous substances discharged to sewer, passing through the sewage treatment works, being discharged into coastal waters and causing harm to the marine environment   |
| Dangerous substances entering coastal waters and causing harm to the marine environment   |
| Dangerous substances entering freshwater or estuarine waters and causing harm to the aquatic environment  |
| Deposition of dangerous substances on protected habitats – sites of special scientific interest, Ramsar sites (ie wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention) etc, that affect the designated status of the site |
| Deposition of dangerous substances on widespread habitats and agricultural land preventing growing crops or grazing animals or rendering the area inaccessible to the public  |
| Direct contact with dangerous substances causing harm to specific species of plants   |
| Inhalation, ingestion or direct contact with dangerous substances causing harm to specific species of animals   |
| Physical damage to and contamination of unlisted buildings and offsite such as houses, schools, offices etc   |
| Physical damage to listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments  |
| There are no potential consequences on the environment from the major accident hazards identified   |

**Field name: Confirmation that arrangements are in place within the establishment to deal with major accidents and minimise their consequences**

This establishment has prepared an internal emergency plan to deal with major accidents and has liaised with the emergency services in order to deal with major accidents and to minimise their effects.

This establishment is in the process of preparing an internal emergency plan to deal with major accidents and is in the process of liaising with the emergency services in order to deal with major accidents and to minimise their effects.

**Field name: Appropriate information from the external emergency plan about consequences outside the establishment from a major accident**

Members of the public are advised to co-operate with any instructions or requests from the emergency services in the event of an accident – (this appears as pre populated text at top of this section)

An external emergency plan has been drawn up by the local authority to deal with any consequences outside this establishment as a result of a major accident.

The local authority is preparing an external emergency plan to deal with any consequences outside this establishment as a result of a major accident.

In the event of a spillage of dangerous substances into the watercourse, appropriate action will be taken to minimise the effects to the environment.

In the event of a spillage/firewater run-off, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the emergency plan.

In the unlikely event of a major accident there may be immediate harm from the dangerous substances involved. There may also be disruption arising from the actions of the emergency services e.g. road closures.

Some buildings might be damaged and possibly unavailable for use for some time

Some crops might be contaminated

There could be disruption to transport and other local services

There could be restrictions on the use of land or water for agriculture or leisure

## **Annex 2 - References and further reading**

[Control of Major Accident Hazards \(COMAH\) Regulations 2015](#)

[‘A Guide to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015’ \(3rd edition\) \(L111\) –](#)

[Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation](#)

[The Environmental Information Regulations 2004](#) – cover England and Wales

[The Environmental Information \(Scotland\) Regulations 2004](#) – cover Scotland

## Further information

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/). You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

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