

# Identification of Hazardous Activities with transboundary impact – location criteria

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Minsk, 12 April 2017



**UNECE**

# Identification of Hazardous Activities

# Identification of Hazardous Activities

- ❑ For the purpose of implementing the Convention hazardous activities have to be identified
- ❑ Article 1(b) - “Hazardous activity” means any activity in which one or more hazardous substances are present or may be present in quantities at or in excess of the threshold quantities listed in Annex I hereto, and which is capable of causing transboundary effects
- ❑ Combination of two criteria
  - ❑ Quantity of hazardous substances vs. predefined thresholds
  - ❑ Possibility of transboundary effects
- ❑ Legal basis – Article 4(1) - ...the Party of origin shall take measures, as appropriate, to identify hazardous activities within its jurisdiction...

# Identification of Hazardous Activities

- ❑ Hazardous substances and respective thresholds – Annex I
  - ❑ Part I: Generic hazard categories
  - ❑ Part II: Named substances
- ❑ Possibility of transboundary effects
  - ❑ Consequence assessment according to national requirements
  - ❑ Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (including guidelines for location criteria)
  - ❑ Subject to consultation

# Identification of Hazardous Activities

## Three-step process

1. Are there any substances from Annex I present in the establishment?

Generic categories substances

Named substances

2. Are these substances in quantities larger than the thresholds in Annex I?

3. Is there a possibility of transboundary effect in case of release of these substances?

# Identification of Hazardous Activities

- There should be mechanisms for:
  - Collection of data on hazardous substances from operators
  - Analysis and validation of data by the Competent Authority
  - Review/update of data
  
- Including evaluating potential transboundary effects

# Location Criteria

# UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

## Identification of hazardous activities

### Article 4. paragraph 1 of the Convention

...The Party of origin shall take measures to identify hazardous activities within its jurisdiction...

Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (including guidelines for location criteria)

(decision 2000/3 in ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IV, as amended by decision 2004/2 in ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex II)



# Location Criteria

In which locations should we look for hazardous activities ?

## Air path:

Within **15 kilometers** of the border for activities involving substances that may cause:

- fire or
- explosion or
- release of toxic substances into the air in the case of an accident



# Location Criteria

In which locations should we look for hazardous activities ?

## Water path:

Along or within catchment areas of transboundary and border rivers, transboundary or international lakes, or within the catchment areas of transboundary groundwaters for activities involving:

- Toxic substances\*
- Very toxic substances\*
- Oxidizing substances\* and
- Substances dangerous for the environment\*

that may be released into watercourses in the event of an accident and reach another country within **2 days** of average flow velocity.

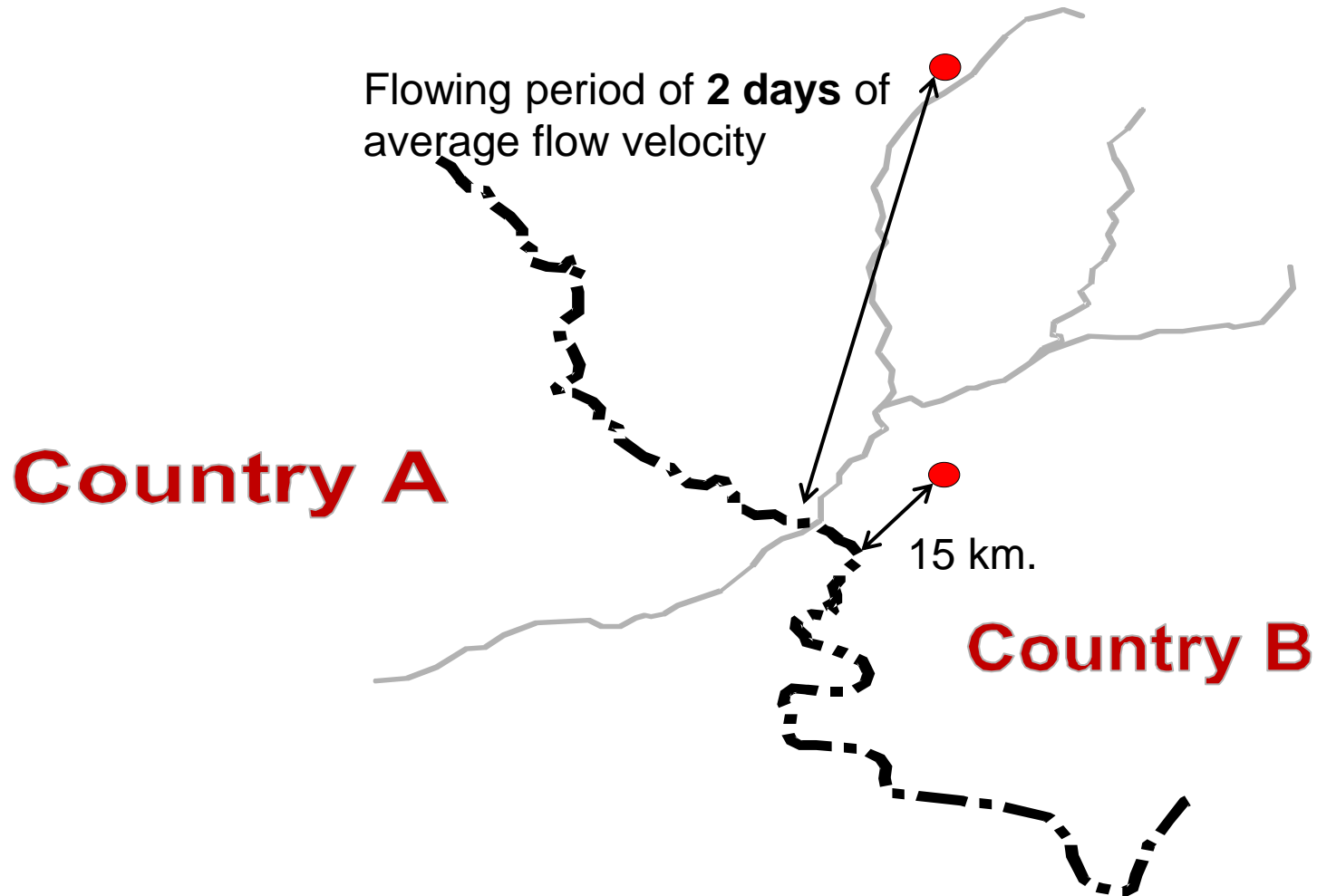
\*Terminology not in line with amended Annex I

# Identification of hazardous activities – water path



The Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents recommended that the distance between the location of the hazardous activity and the border should correspond to approximately a flowing period of two days of average flow velocity.

# Location criteria: air and water path



## **Article 5. Voluntary extension**

Parties concerned should, at the initiative of any of them, enter into discussions on whether to treat an activity not covered by Annex I as a hazardous activity...

Where the Parties concerned so agree, this Convention, or any part thereof, shall apply to the activity in question as if it were a hazardous activity.

# Please note

**Identification of hazardous activities**  
is the first step for transboundary cooperation.

You have complied with your obligations under  
the Convention only after you have done the  
**notification of the affected countries!**

# Thank you!

