



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОКОЛНАТА СРЕДА И ВОДИТЕ

Example of cooperation between national competent authorities responsible for chemicals management and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response in Bulgaria

***Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe and Caucasus
on industrial accident prevention:
Chemicals management, identification and
notification of industrial hazardous activities
Minsk, 11–13 April 2017***

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National Legislation

I) Seveso III Directive and TEIA Convention:

- Environmental Protection Act
- Ordinance on major accident prevention, preparedness and response
- Disaster Protection Act

II) National measures for implementation and enforcement of REACH and CLP Regulations

- Protection from the Harmful Impact of the Chemical Substances and Mixtures Act (Chemicals Act)
- Ordinance on the safe storage of chemicals

REACH and CLP competent authorities:

- ***Minister of Environment and Water (MoEW)***: designated as a national competent authority (Chemicals Act, Art. 21);
- Responsible Unit: Hazardous Chemicals Department, Preventive Activities Directorate;
- Expert Council for Substance Evaluation under the MoEW:
 - ✓ performs ***substance evaluation*** and proposes, where necessary national or EU-wide ***risk management measures under REACH for restriction or authorisation of substances or harmonisation of classification and labelling under CLP***
 - ✓ ***National REACH and CLP Helpdesk (Seveso also covered)***-capacity building for classification and labelling of chemicals;
 - Access to data in the European Chemicals Agency's data bases;

Cooperation and coordination:

- ✓ Standing Committee for coordinated implementation of REACH under the MoEW (mandate extended in terms of CLP), Ministerial Order, 2009
- ✓ REACH (and CLP) Enforcement Strategy, MoEW Order, ongoing interservice consultation
- ✓ Annual Inspection Plans and Programmes;
- ✓ Reporting and follow up activities;

- Consultation and cooperation with the *Poison Centre* under the Ministry of Health, responsible for receiving information related to *emergency health response* under *CLP*
- Cooperation among the national enforcing authorities (environment, health and labour inspectorates);
- Exchange of information on the risk evaluations performed under the different pieces of legislation (environment, occupational health and safety);
- Cooperation with Customs on the import of hazardous substances subject to *authorisation* or *restriction* under REACH Regulation (Memorandum of Understanding, access to data in the Customs database);

Competent authorities for Seveso Directive:

- ***Minister of Environment and Water (MoEW)***: designated as a national competent authority (Environmental Protection Act, Art. 111);
- Responsible unit: Hazardous Chemicals Department, Preventive Activities Directorate;
 - ✓ coordinates all activities for implementation and enforcement of Seveso III and TEIA Convention in Bulgaria;
 - ✓ validates the notifications for classification of the lower- and upper-tier establishments;
 - ✓ use of available data generated under REACH and CLP on the proper classification of the establishments and assessment of the safety measures of the operators;

POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- ❑ According to Environmental Protection Act on Seveso III transposition (latest amendment in 2015), the Executive Environmental Agency (ExEA) under the MoEW took over the responsibilities for the evaluation and approval of new and updated safety reports for the upper tier establishments.
- ❑ The authorities closely cooperate in the evaluation of the documentation provided by the operators and perform joint sites inspections.
- ❑ A number of regulations deal with the technical elements of the major accident prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents, such as the regulations for personal and collective protection means, firefighting and accident safety building standards, fire and accident safety, high pressure equipment, safe storage of hazardous chemicals, occupational health and safety, etc.

POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- ❑ The operators of the Seveso establishments are obliged to take all the necessary measures to prevent major accidents and limit the related negative effects thereof.
- ❑ The operator of a lower tier site shall prepare and submit to the respective Regional Environmental Inspectorate a Major accident prevention policy and a Safety management system before the start of its operation.
- ❑ The operators of upper tier sites shall submit to the competent authority a safety report and an internal emergency plan for approval. The assessment of the hazards and risks in the safety report shall cover the geographical area that might be affected in case of a major accident, including any possible transboundary effects.
- ❑ The operators of the upper tier sites provide proper information to the local authorities for the preparation of external emergency plans for the sites.

Identification and notification of hazardous activities with the potential to cause transboundary effects

- ❖ The potential for transboundary effects is evaluated based on the risk analysis performed by the operators of upper tier sites and submitted as a part of the safety reports.
- ❖ As a result of the recent re-assessment of the updated safety reports submitted by the operators of the upper tier sites, no hazardous activities with possible transboundary effects have been identified.
- ❖ A comprehensive risk analysis has been undertaken for upper tier sites by the operators and evaluated by the competent authorities. As a result of the process **no sites** with potential transboundary effects have been identified. A number of sites have reduced the quantities of the hazardous substances present at the site and others have substituted hazardous substances with less hazardous ones.
- ❖ The identification of the hazardous activities is based on the documents submitted by the operator, the risk analysis performed by them and on the facts elicited during internal multidisciplinary team inspection.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ In 1996 the Governments of the Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Romania signed a cooperation agreement in the field of civil protection in peacetime.

According to the bilateral Bulgarian-Romanian cooperation agreement in case of emergency the Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior notifies directly the Romanian General Inspectorate for emergency situations and vice versa.

- ✓ In 2012 the Governments of the Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Turkey signed a cooperation agreement on emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

According to the bilateral Bulgarian-Turkish cooperation agreement in case of emergency the Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior notifies directly the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey and vice versa.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ Emergency situation assistance may be rendered by means of sending rescue teams and/or experts, as well as by means of providing relief supplies for the needs of the victims as in the request is stated the type, the scale, the location, the time and the current situation of the emergency situation in the country requesting assistance, information for the taken actions and the planned actions for managing the emergency situation; types and priorities of assistance required by rescue teams and/or experts, equipment and means of support.
- ✓ In emergency situations, the request may be addressed orally, only if a written confirmation is sent within a 24 hour period.
- ✓ The Contracting Party to which the request is directed responds to the request in accordance with its available means and in compliance with its national legislation.

Thank you!

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