Checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters

Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)

Ljubljana, 30 November 2016

Claes-Håkan Carlsson
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
JEG-member
Sweden

claes-hakan.carlsson@msb.se
Presentation

• Who?
• Why?
• How?
• What?
• Result.
JEG participants

JEG members from the following countries has contributed to the content in the checklist:

• Hungary
• Germany
• Sweden
• Republic of Moldova
• Romania
• Czech Republic
• Kazakhstan

Experts from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions supported the elaboration of the checklist for contingency planning.
Examples of occurred accidents

- Sandoz, Basel, Switzerland (1986)
- Baia Mare, Romania (2000)
- Ajka, Hungary (2010)
Our task

• In 2010 JEG was given the task to develop a checklist or methodology for contingency planning in a transboundary context that should:
  o Take into account transboundary issues in contingency planning to allow for the harmonization of approaches in the prevention of accidents affecting transboundary watercourses
Aim of checklist

- The checklist should be a help to competent authorities to evaluate checklist for transboundary waters.
- Shall be used preventive. Not as a checklist when an accident occurred!
How?

• Internal JEG meetings
• Use of a Consultant
• Tested in a Table Top Exercise within the Danube Delta project in the Republic of Moldova 23 -26 March 2015
Pillars of contingency planning
Aim with a Contingency plan

Transboundary contingency planning, based on effective emergency preparedness and response planning, as well as on the provision of mutual assistance, is of the utmost importance to reduce the severity of such accidents and to mitigate their effects to the extent possible.
Content of the checklist

The checklist consists of two parts:

• Introduction to the need for contingency planning (I – III)
• A checklist for creating a Contingency plan (IV)
Part 1 – Headings

I. Introduction
   A. The need for harmonized trans-boundary contingency planning
   B. Methodological contingency planning through the use of the checklist
   C. Defining contingency planning and the scope of this document
   D. Definitions
Part 1 – Headings (cont.)

II. Transboundary contingency planning
   A. Emergency Preparedness
   B. Response planning
   C. International Mutual Assistance
III. Guiding principles for member countries to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters
Part 2 – Subheadings checklist

IV. Checklist for competent authorities to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters
   A. Introduction to the checklist and its objectives
   B. Application of the checklist
   C. Assessment of the checklist

References

Annex. Checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters (for competent authorities)
Issues to be checked in the checklist

- Description of watershed
- Potential sources of accidental pollution
- Water management organization/competent authorities
- Emergency preparedness
- Related to offsite emergency plans
- Warning and alert system
- Mutual assistance
The checklist - an example

Checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters
(for competent authorities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues that should be included and described in the contingency plan</th>
<th>Points to be checked</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Partly</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Countries should ensure that the definitions in the legislation are in line with those from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions.</td>
<td>Are the definitions set out in accordance with the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions (see chapter I.D)?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of the watershed

2. Geographic location

   Is there a map of the area potentially affected by accidental pollution? | ☐     | ☐  | ☐     |
   Is there an agreement on what the base delineation of the affected area is? | ☐     | ☐  | ☐     |

3. Main characteristics of the watershed

   Is there a description of the main characteristics of the watershed? | ☐     | ☐  | ☐     |

4. Topography and other aspects

   Is there a description of the topography (relief), flora, hydrography, urban areas and transportation? | ☐     | ☐  | ☐     |

5. Geology and soil structure

   Is there a description of the geology and soil structure? | ☐     | ☐  | ☐     |

6. Climate

   Is there a description of the climate and, in particular, precipitation? | ☐     | ☐  | ☐     |
Result!

- Published in autumn 2016
- Available in English, French and Russian
- Printed copies can be ordered from UNECE
Thank You for listening!

claes-hakan.carlsson@msb.se