Good practices for collecting, processing, maintaining and updating information on hazardous activities - The Bulgarian approach

Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- History Background
  - Prior 1999 – fragmented information in different authorities (MoEW, MoH, LSI, CP, FF)
  - No uniformed classification
  - No common format
  - No information exchange
  - No common policy
Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

• History Background
  • 1999 – Decision to create a legal system for prevention of major accidents
    • Compatible with the UNECE Convention and the Seveso II Directive
    • Based on threshold limits as required by these documents

• Information needs
  • Classification of dangerous substances and hazardous activities
  • Appointment and coordination of Competent Authorities
  • Information for hazardous activities
  • Information exchange
  • Processing and utilisation of the information
Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- Classification of dangerous substances and hazardous activities
  - Legal framework for the classification
    - Generic categories
    - Endpoints
  - Legal framework for classification of hazardous activities

Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- Appointment and Coordination of Competent Authorities
  - Ministry of environment and water
    - Point of Contact – Ministry of emergency situations
  - Enforcement authorities
  - Coordination and cooperation provisions
  - Clear division of responsibilities
Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

• Information for hazardous activities (1)
  • Information required from:
    • Regional Environment inspectorates
    • Ministry of emergency situations
    • Labour Safety and Health Inspectorates
  • More than 1000 potential sites identified
  • Need of guidance for classification (2002)
  • Information processed by the MoEW

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• Information for hazardous activities (2)
  • Revised list of 250 potential sites
  • Information required from the
    • Regional inspectorates
    • Operators
  • Late 2002 – final list of 140 sites
  • Formal notification required by the operators according to the EPA
Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- Information processing, utilisation, updating and maintenance (1)
  - Information on hazardous activities processed and stored in database
  - Data on:
    - Operator
    - Dangerous substances onsite
    - Permitting history
    - Compliance history
  - Information used for permitting, enforcement, reporting and research purposes (collaborative password protected website with access levels)

- Information processing, utilisation, updating and maintenance (2)
  - Information processed in order to identify sites with transboundary accident potential
  - Sent to the European Commission & neighbour countries
  - Sent to enforcement authorities (with all the relevant documentation submitted by the operator)
  - List of hazardous activities publicly available
  - Information updated when
    - Change in quantity of the dangerous substances
    - Change in the operator
    - Change in the legal status of the site