Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

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Secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
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Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000, was negotiated by ECE member countries in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects (e.g. Sandoz spill at Shweizerhalle in 1986 effecting all downstream countries along the Rhine)
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur
Goals of the Industrial Accidents Convention

• Protection of human health and the environment against industrial accidents
• Prevention of major accidents
• Preparedness to major accidents
• Response to major accidents
• Active international cooperation between the contracting Parties, before, during and after an industrial accident
Cooperation between stakeholders

Prevention
Preparedness
Response

Public

Industry
Regional and local authorities

Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Interior / Emergency Situations
Other ministries
Cross-border cooperation

Country A

Country B
Scope of the Convention

• Hazardous activities in which hazardous substances are present in quantities bigger than the threshold quantities listed in Annex I, and which is capable of causing transboundary effects
The Convention does not apply to transport activities with the exception of:

- Emergency response to such accidents;
- Transport on the site of the hazardous activity;
Key obligations

- Identification and notification of hazardous activities
- Development and implementation of policies, strategies and measures for:
  - Prevention of industrial accidents
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Emergency response incl. industrial accidents notification & mutual assistance
  - Information to and participation of the public
Consequences of accidents

Even small amounts of hazardous substances released into water environment can cause huge environmental damages, as the impact is far-reaching and often transboundary...

→ Need for special care for accident related water pollution!!!
The Joint Expert Group (JEG)

JEG was established under the “Water”– and the “Industrial Accidents”– Conventions to work on issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution which is of interest to both Conventions in 2000.

Co-Chairmanship:
“Water”Convention + ”Industrial Accident“ Convention
Guidelines and good industry practices for Oil Terminals

- Developed by an International Expert Group
- Comments by International Organisations, NGOs, Stakeholders, UNECE Member States
- 8th Conference of the Parties took note of the safety guidelines and recommended their use by Parties to the Convention and other countries in the ECE region.
Checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters

• The two UNECE Conventions identified the need for a bilateral checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters

• Examples of occurred accidents:
  • Sandoz, Switzerland (1986)
  • Baia Mare, Romania (2000)
The Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach

- Developed to enhance the capacities of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe
- 15 beneficiary countries under the Assistance Programme
- Assistance can be effective only if a recipient country is capable of receiving the assistance and is willing to take advantage of it
- Preparatory and implementation phases
The Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach

- Strategic approach for the Assistance Programme
- Cyclic approach
- Indicators and Criteria for Self-Assessment

1. **Analyze and examine the progress and identify shortcomings**
2. Define national action plan and implement it
3. Assess the results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Explanation of the Indicator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Identification of hazardous activities</td>
<td>I. Mechanism for data collection</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the relevant authorities to collect adequate data for the identification of hazardous activities (HA) from the operators, the type of data to be collected, schedules and procedures for data collection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Identification of hazardous activities</td>
<td>II. Mechanism for data analysis and validation</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that the authorities and HA operators correctly apply the system for the classification of substances compliant with Annex I of the Convention and use the relevant criteria, recommended by the Convention, in a cross-border context. Collected data should be complete and adequate to identify HA and correspond to the real situation in the country. The country establishes an official HA list and ensures its availability at the national level and to neighbouring countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Identification of hazardous activities</td>
<td>III. Mechanism for data review and revision</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions for review and revision of the official HA list.</td>
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<td>2. Notification of hazardous activities</td>
<td>I. Mechanism for trans-boundary consultation on hazardous activities</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions to ensure that affected Parties have an opportunity to inform Parties of origin of their views on the list of HA, regardless of its status (unofficial, official/validated), and to pursue a settlement of differences.</td>
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<td>2. Notification of hazardous activities</td>
<td>II. Mechanism for notification of hazardous activities</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the competent authorities to notify potentially affected neighbouring countries of existing and/or planned HA.</td>
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<td>3. Prevention</td>
<td>I. Mechanism for responsibility for safe operation to HA operators</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the competent authorities to unambiguously identify HA operators as responsible for the safe operation of activities and to oblige HA operators to demonstrate the safe operation to competent authorities and the public using defined methodologies, methods and models.</td>
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<td>3. Prevention</td>
<td>II. Mechanism for control regime</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the competent authorities to manage industrial accident hazards, by setting safety goals, identifying the scope of major accident hazards in the country and organizing the monitoring of hazardous activities (review of safety documentation, licensing, inspection, control and prohibition, for instance).</td>
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<td>4. Preparedness</td>
<td>I. Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of HA operators</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that HA operators prepare, coordinate, test, review and revise on-site emergency plans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Preparedness</td>
<td>II. Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of competent authorities</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that the competent authorities prepare, coordinate, test, review and revise off-site emergency plans and sets of procedures giving the competent authorities the right to impose responsibility on HA operators.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Preparedness</td>
<td>III. Mechanism for trans-boundary emergency plans</td>
<td>Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that the competent authorities of the concerned parties cooperate with each other and coordinate emergency plans to make them compatible.</td>
</tr>
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Thank you

- For more information please visit: www.unece.org/env/teia