OVERVIEW OF THE UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Second consultation for points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance within UNECE IAN System

Rome, 19-20 October 2005
Overview of the UNECE IAN System

Contents:

• Basic information on the Convention

• Key legal obligations related to notification and mutual assistance

• The development of the UNECE IAN System
  – First CoP, Brussels 2000
  – First consultation for points of contact, Bratislava 2003
  – Task force, June 2004
  – Third CoP, Budapest 2004
Basic information on the Convention

Ratification status

- Signatories
- Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Signatories</th>
<th>Parties</th>
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<td>2005</td>
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Basic information on the Convention

- Prevention
- Industrial accidents
- Preparedness
- Response
- Civil liability
Basic information on the Convention

The Convention promotes cooperation between member countries of the UNECE region, not only between governments at the national level but in particular between local authorities and communities on both sides of a border.

Early warning and provision of information at appropriate levels when an accident occurs is one of the essential elements linking preparedness and effective response. Such a response may also require assistance.
Key legal obligations - industrial accident notification

Article 10 – Industrial accident notification systems

The Parties shall provide for the establishment and operation of compatible and efficient industrial accident notification systems at appropriate levels.

In the event of an accident, or imminent threat thereof, which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects, the Party of origin shall ensure that affected Parties are, without delay, notified at appropriate levels through these industrial accident notification systems.
Key legal obligations – mutual assistance

Article 12 – Mutual assistance

If a Party needs assistance in the event of an accident, it may ask for assistance from other Parties.

A Party to whom a request for assistance is directed shall promptly decide and inform the requesting Party whether it is in a position to render the assistance required.
Key legal obligations - notification and mutual assistance

Article 17 – Competent authorities and points of contact

Each Party shall designate or establish one point of contact for the purpose of industrial accident notifications pursuant to article 10 and one point of contact for the purpose of mutual assistance pursuant to article 12.

Each Party shall, within three months of the date of entry into force of the Convention for that Party, inform the other Parties, through the secretariat, which body or bodies it has designated as its point(s) of contact and of any changes regarding this designation.

Each Party shall keep its point(s) of contact operational at all times.
UNECE IAN System

2000 – Conference of the Parties, first meeting

- Accepted the System for notifying a major accident capable of causing transboundary effects and/or for requesting assistance in responding to such an accident

- Encouraged drawing up bilateral or multilateral agreements for industrial accident notification, at local and regional levels, as a supplement to the UNECE IAN System
UNECE IAN System

The UNECE IAN System comprises:

– A network of points of contact for accident notification and mutual assistance designated by 36 UNECE member countries and the EC, in accordance with the provisions of article 17

– Procedures for notification or requesting assistance

– Set of reports for notifying and requesting assistance
**UNECE IAN System – reports**

**UNECE Early Warning Report - Serial number:**

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**URGENT**

Date/Time: ________/_______ UTC _______ Local

Pages (incl. front page): __________________

**From/Country of emergency:** _________________

**To (Point of contact):**

Name/Position: _____________________________  _____________________________________

Fax/Tel:  _________________________________

Fax :  _______________________________

E-mail :  _________________________________

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**From/Country of emergency:** _________________

**To (Point of contact):**

Name/Position: _____________________________  _____________________________________

Fax/Tel:  _________________________________

Fax :  _______________________________

E-mail :  _________________________________

**THE JOINT UNEP/OCHA ENVIRONMENT UNIT**

**Fax/Tel:  _________________________________

**Fax :  _______________________________

**E-mail :  _________________________________

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION CIVIL PROTECTION CO-OPERATION MECHANISM**

**Fax/Tel:  _________________________________

**Fax :  _______________________________

**E-mail :  _________________________________**

**Nature of emergency/accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accident</th>
<th>Type of accident/attack</th>
<th>Substances/chemical formula or name</th>
<th>Short description of accident and immediate effects</th>
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**Accidental**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accident</th>
<th>Type of accident/attack</th>
<th>Substance/chemical formula or name</th>
<th>Immediate effects</th>
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**Location**

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**Weather conditions**

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<tr>
<th>Wind direction (from)</th>
<th>Wind speed (m/s)</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Cloudy sky (%)</th>
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**Emergency and mitigation measures already taken**

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**Request for assistance**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Assistance type:</th>
<th>Amount cum/tons</th>
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**URGENT**

**UNECE Information Report - Serial number:**

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**URGENT**

Date/Time: ________/_______ UTC _______ Local

Pages (incl. front page): __________________

**From/Country of emergency:** _________________

**To (Joint Unit/MSC):**

Name/Position: _____________________________  _____________________________________

Fax/Tel:  _________________________________

Fax :  _______________________________

E-mail :  _________________________________

**THE JOINT UNEP/OCHA ENVIRONMENT UNIT**

**Fax/Tel:  _________________________________

**Fax :  _______________________________

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The receipt of this report should
UNECE IAN System

2003 – Points of contact, first consultation
Test by Slovakia

- An exercise notification was sent by fax and e-mail to points of contact in 36 UNECE member countries and the EC

- Points of contact in 18 countries and the EC confirmed receipt of the notification according to the procedure within the System;

- 12 points of contact (Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, France, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, United States and Uzbekistan) did not react to the notification

- 6 points of contact (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Spain, United Kingdom) could not be reached by fax or e-mail at all.
The effectiveness of the System should be enhanced;

The competent authorities/focal points of the mentioned countries were asked to investigate the situation at their points of contact and take the necessary measures to improve it

Future communication tests should be subregional rather than UNECE region-wide;

The results of future tests should be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties and at future consultations of the points of contact.
UNECE IAN System

2003 – Points of contact, first consultation
Recommendations II

- A task force should modify the System’s reports and harmonize them with reports used by others (EC, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit)

- The task force should also look into possibilities for enhancing the System’s communication procedures (e.g. by using up-to-date web-based communication technology)

- Guidance on the application of the System, especially for use by points of contact in Russian-speaking countries should be developed – We are expecting Poland to prepare and disseminate a Russian version of a self-training kit
UNECE IAN System

2004 – Task force
Review of reports and procedures

- Drew up new early warning and information reports (modified content and layout)

- Drew up new assistance request report – joint report used within the UNECE IAN System and in communication with the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (may also be used in communication with the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) of the Civil Protection Unit of the EC)

- Supported the enhancement of communication procedures within the System
UNECE IAN System

2004 – Conference of the Parties, third meeting

- Amended the UNECE IAN System. New reports (early warning, information, request for assistance) were introduced

- Established a task force to review the System’s communication procedures and to make recommendations for enhancing them (from fax to internet)
UNECE IAN System – published and now available
Thank you

http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.htm
http://www.unece.org/env/teia/IAN%20System/systemE.htm