



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE



Industrial Accidents Convention

as a framework for environmental
emergency response and preparedness

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Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

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Industrial Accidents Convention

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

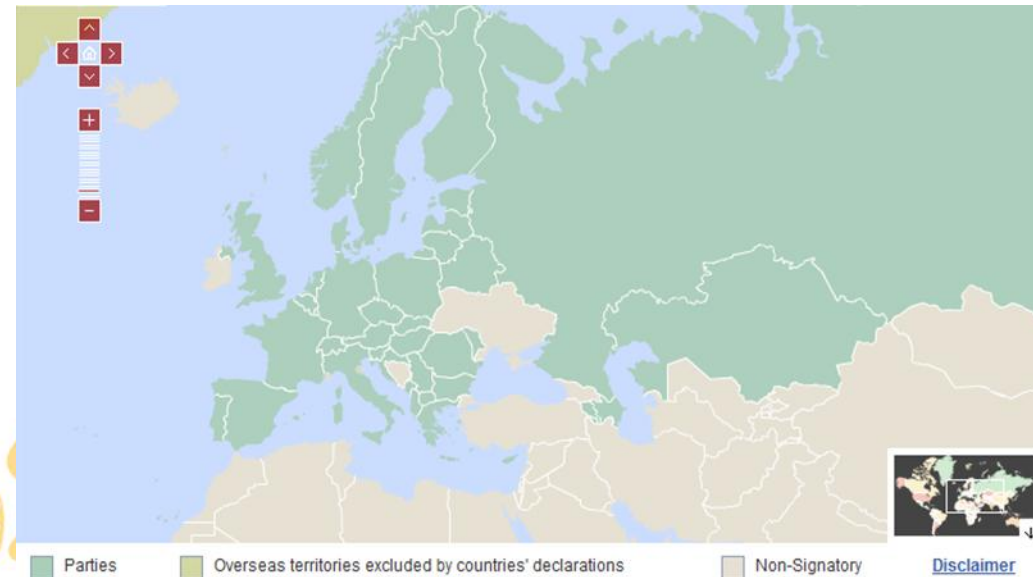
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Aims to prevent accidents (particularly having transboundary effects) from occurring, reducing their frequency & severity, and mitigating their effects
- Promotes active international cooperation between countries, before, during and after an industrial accident





History & scope

- Adopted in 1992
- Entered into force in 2000
- Now has 40 Parties, including European Union, in ECE region
- Possibility of opening up to other States





Scope Activities & effects

- Hazardous activity – where hazardous substances present in quantities listed (GHS by 2015?)
- Capable of causing transboundary effect on human beings, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, landscape, material assets ...
- Not nuclear, military, dams (but tailings dams?), transport (but pipelines?), GMOs, marine environment





Core provisions



- Identification of hazardous activities
 - Notification of hazardous activities
 - Prevention
 - **Preparedness**
 - **Response** and mutual assistance
 - Information to and public participation
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- Siting of hazardous activities and of significant developments in areas that could be affected by effects of an industrial accident
 - Civil liability





Emergency preparedness (art. 8)

- All Parties to take appropriate measures to establish and maintain adequate emergency preparedness
 - On-site duties undertaken by operators
 - Inform other Parties of contingency plans
- Parties where hazardous activities located to ensure on-site contingency plans prepared and implemented
 - Suitable response and other measures to prevent and minimize transboundary effects
- All Parties to ensure off-site contingency plans prepared and implemented
 - Measures to prevent and minimize transboundary effects, taking into account conclusions of analysis and evaluation of hazardous activities
 - Where appropriate, joint off-site contingency plans





Response (art. 11)

- All Parties to ensure, in the event of an industrial accident or imminent threat, adequate response measures taken
 - As soon as possible and using most efficient practices
 - To contain and minimize effects
- Parties concerned, jointly if appropriate, assess effects so as to take adequate response measures
- Parties to endeavour to coordinate response measures





Mutual assistance (art. 12)

- Parties may ask for assistance from other Parties
 - Indicate scope and type of assistance
- Party contacted to decide promptly and inform
 - Whether in a position to assist
 - Scope and terms of assistance
- Where no existing agreements for mutual assistance, refer to annex X to the Convention, which addresses
 - Direction, control, coordination and supervision – requesting Party
 - Local facilities and services, entry/exit, transit – requesting Party
 - Reimbursement of costs, claims by 3rd parties – requesting Party
 - Privileges, immunities or facilities – for assisting Party
 - Hold harmless and indemnify – for assisting Party





Assistance Programme

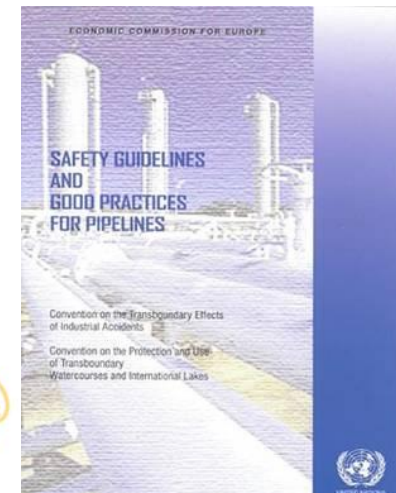
- Preparatory phase: fact-finding and awareness-raising missions
- Implementation phase: training sessions, in-field exercises, advisory services and consultations
- Backed up by a cyclical mechanism
 - assess level of implementation of the Convention, and identify shortcomings and challenges
 - define actions to address challenges, prepare national action plan, implement plan
 - assess results achieved
- Indicators & criteria for self-evaluation of progress





Resources

- Industrial Accidents Notification System
 - Early-warning
 - Information
 - Assistance request
- Checklist system for safety reports
- Safety guidelines and good practices for
 - tailing management facilities
 - pipelines
 - oil terminals (soon)
- On-line training platform with UNEP/OCHA (soon)





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www.unece.org/env/teia

