

# Safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals



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## Why are these safety guidelines needed?

Oil terminals – which store large amounts of hazardous substances – pose a serious threat to people and the environment, especially if improperly designed, constructed, managed or operated. An accident at an oil terminal may result in uncontrolled spills, fires and explosions, potentially leading to the loss of human life or severe environmental damage, as demonstrated by the Buncefield (United Kingdom, 2005) and Vasytkiv (Ukraine, 2015) oil depot accidents. As each facility is unique, a tailor-made and comprehensive approach is needed to ensure that they are operated in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

## How can the safety guidelines help?

The guidelines provide a set of principles, recommendations and technical recommendations (including for design, planning, procurement, construction, management and decommissioning) that authorities, operators of facilities and other related experts can use to prevent accidents at oil terminal facilities and to limit their consequences on human health and the environment. The guidelines are intended to support and enhance existing requirements and practices.

## Where are the safety guidelines available?

The guidelines are available on the UNECE webpage in English and Russian ([www.unece.org/index.php?id=41066](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41066)). They were developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents with the support of UNECE to prevent accidental water pollution and its transboundary effects.

## For questions and further information:

Industrial Accidents Convention: [ece-teia.conv@un.org](mailto:ece-teia.conv@un.org)

Water Convention: [water.convention@un.org](mailto:water.convention@un.org)

Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents:  
[www.unece.org/env/teia/jeg.html](http://www.unece.org/env/teia/jeg.html)

