

Regulation of 'Domino Sites' in the UK

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The Regulatory System

- Major hazard sites in the UK are regulated under the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations which implement the EU's Seveso III Directive
- These Regulations place duties on operators of such sites to;
 - identify their hazards,
 - put control measures in place to prevent major accidents, and;
 - plan mitigation measures to limit the effects of any accidents that do take place
- The Regulations also create 'domino groups' which are groups of sites where the risks or consequences of a major accident may be increased due to the proximity of the sites to each other
- The UK has developed procedures to regulate these groups effectively and proportionally without duplication of effort

Domino groups in the UK

- The UK has four main areas where there are clusters of major hazard sites
 - Grangemouth in Scotland
 - Runcorn in the North-West of England
 - Teesside and Humber in the North East of England
- These are in traditional industrial areas with access to the sea for import and export of goods and materials
- These clusters contain groups of sites that are treated as domino groups
- Some of these groups were previously single companies that have split up



Regulating at a Domino Group

- When a domino group is identified all operators within the group are notified by the Competent Authority
- Operators within a domino group must share information and work together to ensure that major accident prevention plans, safety management systems, safety reports and emergency plans take into account the hazards not just of each site but their impacts on each other
- Operators within a domino group must also co-operate in providing information to members of the public living and working near the sites
- Where sites are required to have external emergency plans group members must co-operate in their development. The emergency services may chose to carry out joint testing of these plans

An Example

- One domino site in the UK consists of six different companies. Five of these companies were previously under the same owner which has presented particular issues for the regulators
- The activities of the site are linked with companies supplying each other's raw materials and packing finished products
- The site retains some aspects of its shared history including;
 - Common perimeter fence
 - Shared emergency response team
 - Ownership and control of plant and pipework being mixed across the site
- The domino group issues a common public information leaflet to its local population and participates in common emergency response testing



Any questions ?