



# Major Accident Hazards Policy

## Relation between the Seveso-III-Directive and the Industrial Accidents Convention

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# Overview

- 1. Why we need to act*
- 2. Relation between the Seveso-III-Directive and the Industrial Accidents Convention*
- 3. Contribution to other legal areas*



# Why we need to act

## Impacts of major accidents

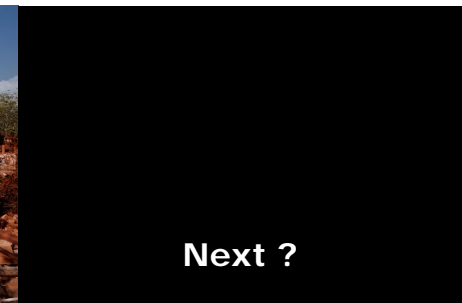


# A bitter lesson for Europe



*> 900 major accidents since 1980*

*= Billions € loss + fatalities/injuries + env. damage*



## Some accidents & their direct impact

| Location                       | Year | Fatalities | Cost (€)      |
|--------------------------------|------|------------|---------------|
| Toulouse<br>(France)           | 2001 | 29         | > 2.5 billion |
| Buncefield<br>(United Kingdom) | 2005 | -          | > 1.1 billion |
| Deepwater Horizon<br>(USA)     | 2010 | 11         | > 55 billion  |
| Tianjin<br>(China)             | 2015 | 173        | > 10 billion  |

# Impacts of major accidents (1)

*Selected impacts for the establishment:*

- **Direct damage**
  - Inside and outside the establishment (e.g. structural damage, environmental damage)
  - Deaths and injuries
- **Subsequent business cost**
  - Business disruption / loss of income from production
  - Bankruptcy
  - Legal costs (e.g. compensations, court cases)
- **Image**
  - Loss of trust in the community
  - Shareholder value decline
  - Loss of trust by authorities → e.g. tighter controls



# Impacts of major accidents (2)

*Selected impact for authorities / communities:*

- **Human health**
  - Fatalities
  - Injuries (physical and psychological)
- **Response cost**
  - Emergency services
  - Evacuation / sheltering
  - Deviation and disruption of traffic
- **Follow-up cost**
  - Administrative costs for authorities to follow up accidents
  - Remediation / clean-up
  - Contaminated water resources



# Impacts of major accidents (3)

## *Selected wider impacts:*

- **Socio-economic impact**

- Implications on other establishments (inspections, tighter control ...)
- Possible interruption of vital supplies (e.g. petrol, base chemicals ...)
- Social / Psychological impact on the community
- Job loss / Cost of unemployment
- Loss of income of associated businesses (e.g. contractors, caterers, local services)
- Support for affected people (e.g. relocations)

- **Political impact**

- Loss of trust towards the capabilities of authorities and politicians
- Accusations of mismanagement / corruption / incompetence ...
- Increased public scrutiny
- Transboundary impact (e.g. more difficult relationships with neighbours)





# Relation between the Seveso-III-Directive and the Industrial Accidents Convention



## 2 approaches to success

*TEIA as stepping stone towards Seveso-III*

- **Focus on high and transboundary risk**
- **Less sophisticated requirements**
- **Fewer resources needed**

*→ Insufficient for EU but easier to achieve*

*Seveso-III to implement TEIA*

- **More holistic risk management**
- **More requirements**
- **Some TEIA aspects not covered**

*→ Two steps in one go but more demanding*

# Seveso-III complementing TEIA

*Seveso-III-Directive is stricter and more specific compared to the Industrial Accidents Convention*

- **Not only transboundary effects**
- **Applies as of lower thresholds**
- **Mandatory inspections**
- **More descriptive on all requirements**

→ **When deciding on how to implement TEIA:  
consider requirements of Seveso-III**

# TEIA complementing Seveso-III

*Seveso-III does not cover all aspects:*

- Accident notification
- Mutual assistance
- Research and development
- Technology exchange
- Mining\*, landfills, pipelines

→ Aspects covered by other legislation or not under EU competence

\* Tailings management is covered

# Considerations for non-EU countries

*When deploying Seveso-III consider that it:*

- **was developed to work in the EU context**
  - it presumes some aspects which are granted in the EU but not necessarily given outside the EU, e.g. the Aarhus principles
  - self-evident cross border cooperation between EU Member States
  - burden sharing & subsidiarity (EU vs. Member State competence)
- **does not cover all risks to be addressed**
  - facilities under the lower threshold
  - industry sectors/activities covered by other legislation
  - some kind of chemical hazards (e.g. flammable solids)
- **does not apply beyond EU borders**

# Contribution to other legal areas



# Integrated policy making

*Implementation of TEIA & Seveso-III contributes to other policy areas (examples):*

- **Union's Civil Protection Mechanism → Sendai Disaster Risk Management**
- **Sustainable Development → 2030 Agenda / SDGs**
- **Protection of critical infrastructure and CBRN-E**
- **Chemicals legislation → SAICM**
- ...

# Summary

- *Major accidents have widespread impacts*
  - **Direct: e.g. economic, health and environmental**
  - **Indirect: image, political, socio-economic**
- *TEIA and Seveso are complementary*
  - **Aspects to consider for non-EU countries**
  - **Need to cover transboundary and other risks**
- *Contribution to other legislation*
  - **Mutual benefits**
  - **Strong need for coordination**





# Thank you for your attention

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