

Agenda item 17

**Implications of the coronavirus disease
pandemic for industrial safety**



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

*Eleventh meeting of the
Conference of the Parties*

Item 17. Implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic for industrial safety

Which have been the implications/impact of the pandemic for authorities and industry in the area of industrial safety?

- a) The kind of **guidance provided by authorities** to industry and whether that guidance addressed aspects related to the **shutdown and start-up of operations**;
- b) How authorities maintained **contact** with industry during the pandemic and how **scheduled inspections** were handled;
- c) How the risks from disruptions like the pandemic related to the **operation of hazardous installations**, like **the** shutdown and start-up of operations, were integrated into existing **risk assessments**; future plans in that respect;
- d) Whether countries experienced any **incidents or near misses** that could be related to the consequences of the pandemic — for example, due to the start-up of operations following a period of shutdown — and the lessons learned from that experience.

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The pandemic is not over yet. So far, incidents and near misses that happened...

- Were likely the result of a start-up after a shut-down, rather than the direct result of a shut-down

Guidance and measures put in place by authorities...

- Mainly aimed at protecting the workforce
- Required fast adaptation of regulations to allow for adjusted communication between operators, authorities and inspectors
- Ensured continued communication between authorities and enterprises
- Required a high level of resilience of human resources

While measures and policies aimed to secure continuity of production...

- Countries indicated a decrease/delay in inspections, trainings, but also in maintenance and exercises
- Inspectors adapted their working methods to online inspections, put in place selection methods to prioritize inspections, and caught up with delayed inspections in between 'infection waves'.