

# Good practices for collecting, processing, maintaining and updating information on hazardous activities - The Bulgarian approach



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Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria



## Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- History Background
  - Prior 1999 – fragmented information in different authorities (MoEW, MoH, LSI, CP, FF)
  - No uniformed classification
  - No common format
  - No information exchange
  - No common policy

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## **Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities**

- History Background
  - 1999 – Decision to create a legal system for prevention of major accidents
    - Compatible with the UNECE Convention and the Seveso II Directive
    - Based on threshold limits as required by these documents

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## **Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities**

- Information needs
  - Classification of dangerous substances and hazardous activities
  - Appointment and coordination of Competent Authorities
  - Information for hazardous activities
  - Information exchange
  - Processing and utilisation of the information

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## **Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities**

- Classification of dangerous substances and hazardous activities
  - Legal framework for the classification
    - Generic categories
    - Endpoints
  - Legal framework for classification of hazardous activities
    - Annex I (Annex III of the Directive)

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## **Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities**

- Appointment and Coordination of Competent Authorities
  - Ministry of environment and water
    - Point of Contact – Ministry of emergency situations
    - Enforcement authorities
  - Coordination and cooperation provisions
  - Clear division of responsibilities

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## **Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities**

- Information for hazardous activities (1)
  - Information required from:
    - Regional Environment inspectorates
    - Ministry of emergency situations
    - Labour Safety and Health Inspectorates
  - More than 1000 potential sites identified
  - Need of guidance for classification (2002)
  - Information processed by the MoEW

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## **Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities**

- Information for hazardous activities (2)
  - Revised list of 250 potential sites
  - Information required from the
    - Regional inspectorates
    - Operators
  - Late 2002 – final list of 140 sites
  - Formal notification required by the operators according to the EPA

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## Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- Information processing, utilisation, updating and maintenance (1)
  - Information on hazardous activities processed and stored in database
  - Data on:
    - Operator
    - Dangerous substances onsite
    - Permitting history
    - Compliance history
  - Information used for permitting, enforcement, reporting and research purposes (collaborative password protected website with access levels)

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## Bulgarian experience in processing information on hazardous activities

- Information processing, utilisation, updating and maintenance (2)
- Information processed in order to identify sites with transboundary accident potential
- Sent to the European Commission & neighbour countries
- Sent to enforcement authorities (with all the relevant documentation submitted by the operator)
- List of hazardous activities publicly available
- Information updated when
  - Change in quantity of the dangerous substances
  - Change in the operator
  - Change in the legal status of the site

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