The UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment Division
Loss Prevention Symposium
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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:
A forum for dialogue and cooperation on economic, environmental and other sectoral issues
The history – the triggers for negotiating the Convention

Seveso, Italy on 10 July 1976

Schweizerhalle, Basel, Switzerland on 1 November 1986
Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur
- Focuses on transboundary cooperation
- Accidents of technological nature involving chemical substances incl. accidents caused by natural disasters
- International cooperation on mutual assistance, R&D, exchange of information & technology
- 41 Parties in the UNECE region at present, expected to be opened for accession to all United Nations member States
Parties to the Convention
### Parties to the Convention

#### Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention as of June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>As of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
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<td>Armenia</td>
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**Total Parties**: 41
Key obligations

- Identification of hazardous activities – activities capable of causing transboundary effects that involve the manufacture, use, storage, handling, or disposal of hazardous substances in quantities above the thresholds laid down in annex I

- Notification of hazardous activities to potentially affected Parties
Key obligations

- Policies, strategies and measures for:
  - Prevention
  - Preparedness
  - Emergency Response
- Public information and participation
Key obligations

PREVENTION

- Identification and notification of existing or proposed hazardous activities
- Inducing actions by operators to reduce accident risk
- Choosing the appropriate location: Policies on siting of new hazardous activities and significant modifications to existing ones

PREPAREDNESS

- Availability of industry’s on-site contingency plans and community’s off-site contingency plans
- Sharing of information between authorities and operators, and Parties
- Harmonized and joint off-site contingency plans to adopt adequate response measures

RESPONSE

- Ensuring capability of providing effective response and mitigation measures
- Notification of accidents or threat thereof to potentially affected Parties
- Mutual assistance
- Coordination of the response measures
The Convention and the EU Seveso legislation

- Full compatibility
- Transboundary aspects make the difference
Governance & institutions:
Cooperation between national authorities, industry & the public

- Competent authority
  - Industry
  - Interior
  - Environment
  - Other

- Regional level
- Local level
Prevention:
Measures which may be carried out by Parties, competent authorities, operators, or by joint efforts

- Legislative provisions or guidelines concerning safety measures and standards
- Risk assessment, evaluation of risk analyses or safety studies
- Application of the most appropriate technology in order to prevent industrial accidents
- Appropriate education and training of personnel on-site under normal and abnormal conditions
- Establishment of internal managerial structures designed to implement and maintain safety regulations effectively
- Auditing, inspections
Guidelines and good industry practices

All publication available at http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications.html
Guidance on hazard rating methodologies and safety reports

- Overview of methodologies for hazard rating of industrial sites
- Checklist to support the preparation, auditing and inspection of safety reports
- Guidelines to provide detailed guidance and instructions on use of a checklist system

Available at: http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications.html
Checklist on contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters

- Developed by the UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (under the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions)

- Aims to contribute to mitigating the severity of the consequences of industrial accidents affecting transboundary watercourses for human health and the environment

Available at:
http://www.unece.org/env/teia/guidelines.html
Supporting the implementation of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
Prevents accidental water pollution from industrial accidents

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
Promotes safe management of industrial installations to make them sustainable

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
Encourages integrated policies to achieve resilience to disasters, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
Avoids deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals by reducing the risk of technological disasters releasing chemical substances

**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
Provides a framework to prevent accidental release of chemicals, thus contributing to their environmentally sound management

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**
Strengthens resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters by promoting adequate siting, land-use policies and emergency plans

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
Ensures participatory decision-making by involving the public in discussions related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.
The Assistance Programme

- Supporting countries in the Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Needs-driven approach
- National support for industrial safety governance and policy-making
- Sub-regional projects/activities addressing transboundary aspects
- Addressing key challenges, such as safety at TMFs in Ukraine, Caucasus, Central Asia
• Implemented in cooperation with Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, to support the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to protect the Danube Delta from industrial accidents (2010-2015)

• Led to enhanced mechanisms for hazard and crisis management

• Improved understanding of the location of hazards in the Delta between authorities and operators and strengthened cooperation

• Established harmonized procedures and draft joint contingency plan between the three riparian countries

Hazard map, showing the location of oil terminals in the Danube Delta riparian countries

UNECE Hazard and crisis management week, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, March 2015

First ever trilateral field exercise in the Danube Delta, September 2015
More about the Convention

Publications:

More information:
Web: www.unece.org/env/teia
Email: teia.conv@unece.org