

OECD PROGRAMME ON CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

(WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS)

**Launch of the National Policy Dialogues (NPD) for Industrial Safety in Serbia
Belgrade, 26 October 2021**



Objective of the OECD Programme on Chemical Accidents

Share experience and recommend appropriate policy options for enhancing the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to, chemical accidents

Programme of work designed to:

- support cooperation and knowledge exchange on chemical accidents;
- discuss and provide recommendations on continuing and emerging issues;
- have a particular emphasis on **PREVENTION**. As a manmade risk, chemical accidents are preventable; sometimes easily avoidable if past lessons are shared and implemented.



Why an OECD programme on Chemical Accidents?

- Major accidents continue to happen worldwide and in OECD countries;
- Over the past decades, successive major accidents have caused deaths, injuries, significant environmental pollution and massive economic losses:
 - ✓ Beirut, Lebanon (2020),
 - ✓ The Bento dam, Brazil (2015),
 - ✓ Tianjin, China (2015),
 - ✓ West, Texas, United States (2013),
 - ✓ Gumi, Korea (2013);
- Recovering from industrial accidents sets back development gains, takes time and is expensive.



Provide a forum for countries and stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange on chemical accidents

- **Cooperation and knowledge sharing** helps us to face common problems and emerging issues together;
- **Learning from each other's experiences** and raising the level of risk governance in all countries through these exchanges;
- Meeting once per year.



Countries and organisations actively engaged in the work

- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Austria
- ❖ Belgium
- ❖ Canada
- ❖ Chile
- ❖ Colombia
- ❖ Costa Rica
- ❖ Czech Republic
- ❖ Estonia
- ❖ Finland
- ❖ France
- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Israel
- ❖ Italy
- ❖ Japan

- ❖ Korea
- ❖ Mexico
- ❖ Netherlands
- ❖ New Zealand
- ❖ Norway
- ❖ Poland
- ❖ Slovak Republic
- ❖ Switzerland
- ❖ United Kingdom
- ❖ United States
- ❖ E.U. (EC-JRC)
- ❖ Russian Federation
- ❖ Brazil
- ❖ Argentina

- Partner Organisations:*
- ❖ UNECE
 - ❖ UNEP/OCHA Joint Env. Unit
 - ❖ WHO
 - ❖ ILO
 - ❖ OPCW
 - ❖ UNEP
 - ❖ OSCE
 - ❖ others...



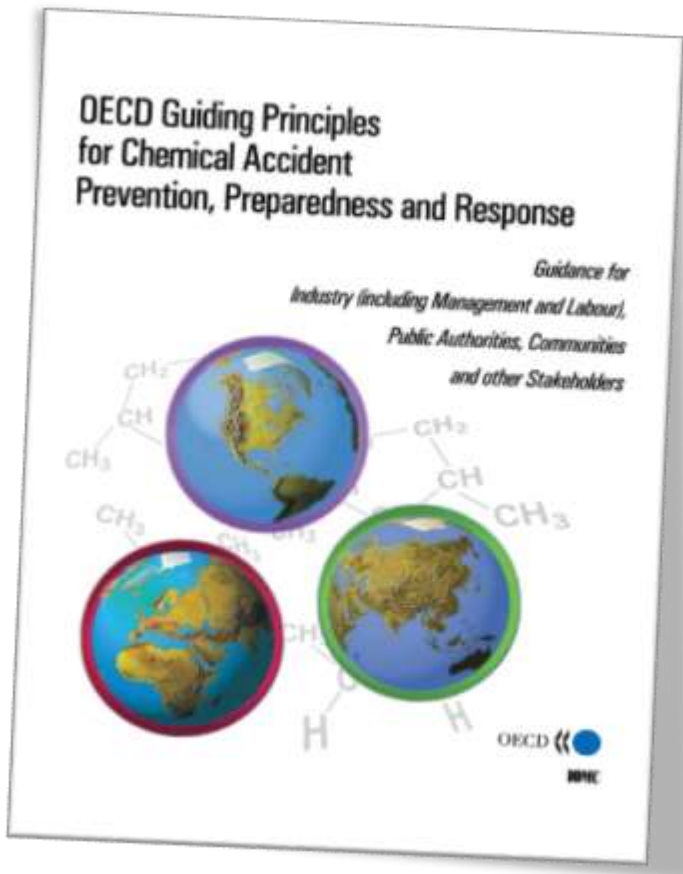
Provide guidance and analyse emerging risks

- Keeping up with **emerging issues**, helps us to learn new lessons quickly and apply "old" lessons to new areas, in order to prevent chemical accidents;
- Beside emerging issues, many accidents result from known factors that need to be reminded.



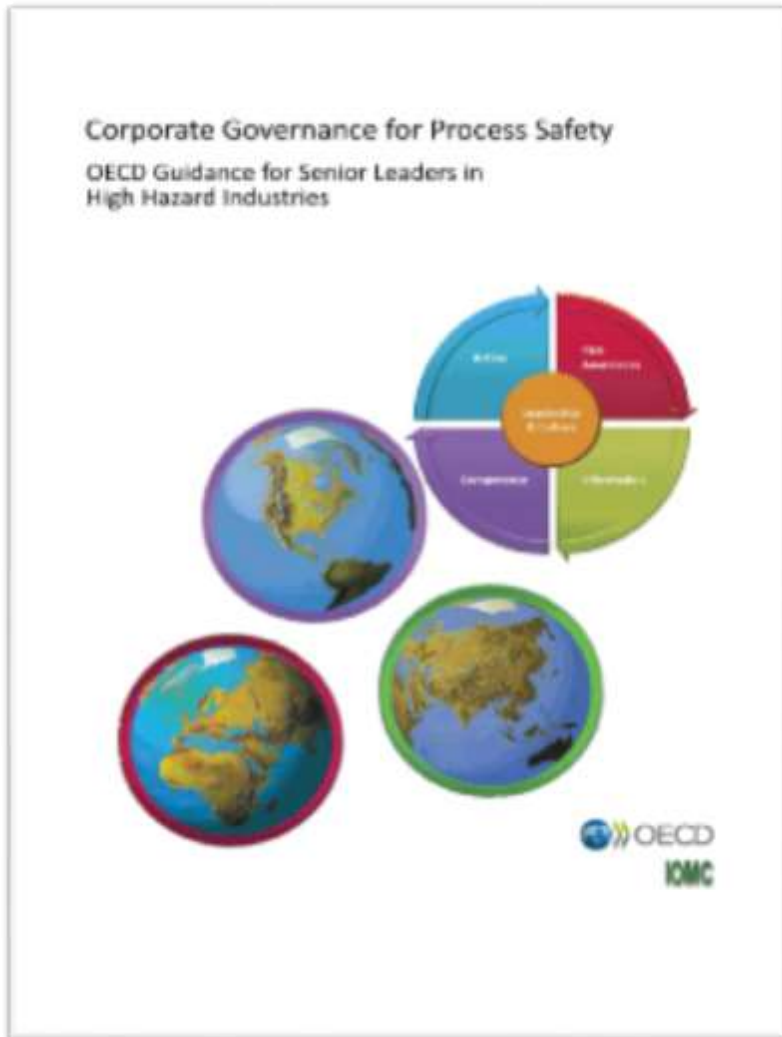
Revision of the OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Provide guidance, applicable worldwide, to support stakeholders in taking appropriate actions to prevent chemical accidents and to mitigate their adverse effects if they occur.



- ✓ Aimed at public authorities & industry;
- ✓ Help ensure that chemical accidents programmes takes account of latest good practices & advances in the field of prevention, preparedness, response, and assessment of consequences;
- ✓ Include the key elements of process safety.
- ✓ On-going revision, new edition planned for mid-2022.

Corporate Governance for Process Safety



Change of Ownership in Hazardous Facilities





OECD Legal Instruments on Chemical Accidents

- Recommendation concerning **Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response** (2003) [OECD/LEGAL/0319](#);
- Recommendation concerning the Application of the **Polluter-Pays Principle** to Accidental Pollution (1989) [OECD/LEGAL/0251](#);
- Decision-Recommendation concerning Provision of **Information to the Public and Public Participation** in Decision-making Processes related to the Prevention of, and Response to, Accidents Involving Hazardous Substances (1988) [OECD/LEGAL/0239](#);
- Decision on the Exchange of Information concerning Accidents Capable of Causing **Transfrontier Damage** (1988) [OECD/LEGAL/0240](#).

Now being consolidated and updated!

<https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/>



Natech - Natural Hazards triggered Technological Accidents

OECD Natech project initiated in 2008 - In cooperation with EC Joint Research Centre, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNECE;

Goals:

- Investigate Natech specificities for prevention, preparedness and response to chemical accidents;
- Exchange experience across countries, and provide guidance.

Development of:

a **brochure to raise awareness on Natech Risks** (2021)

and a **Guidance on Natech Risk Management** (2024)

<https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/chemical-accidents/risks-from-natural-hazards-at-hazardous-installations.htm>



Collaboration with Partner Agencies – Inter-Agency Group on Industrial/Chemical Accidents



Brings together international organisations and institutions working on prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial and chemical accidents. It aims to:

- Strengthen international cooperation;
- Improve the use of resources and avoid potential duplication of work;
- Facilitate understanding and coordination of each agency's programme;
- Carry a common message to the international community.

[Brochure available online](#)



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