

Benefits of Accession and Main Requirements of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

Ms. Ksenia Nechunaeva
Environmental Affairs Consultant
Industrial Accidents Convention , UNECE

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents



Designed to protect people and the environment from industrial accidents by preventing, preparing for and responding to accidents

Accidents regulated by the Convention:

- Associated with hazardous activities production, use, storage, handling or disposal of hazardous substances
- Capable of causing transboundary impact

Covers tailings and NATECH (man-made accidents caused by natural hazards)

42 Parties to the Convention, including Kazakhstan



Scope of the Convention



UNECE

What kind of accidents does the Convention deal with?

Involving hazardous activities (production, use, storage, handling or disposal of hazardous substance)

Capable of causing transboundary impacts

At tailings

List of substance and categories included in Annex I to the Convention

Examples of hazardous activities:

Fertilizer plants

Chemical enterprises

Oil storage



Key Commitments



UNECE



Identification and Notification of Hazardous Activities

Development and implementation of policies, strategies and measures for:

- **Prevention** of industrial accidents
- **Preparedness** for industrial accidents
- Industrial accident **response**, including industrial accident notification and mutual assistance

Public awareness and involvement





Benefits of joining the Industrial Accidents Convention

As a Party a country:

- Participates in decision-making by the Parties
- Nominates a candidate for membership of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation and, as such, actively shape the work of the Convention
- Influences the development of international treaty law and policy, demonstrate compliance and continue to improve national policy in the field of industrial safety
- Receives further support from other Parties and from the UNECE secretariat to improve implementation

Accession also:

- Provides better protection to the population of the country if an industrial accident with transboundary consequences occurs in a neighboring or coastal country, and increase the chances of obtaining the necessary funding to solve critical problems in this area
- Strengthens capacity of the country to prevent industrial accidents, quickly respond to them and manage the risks of man-made accidents caused by natural disasters (NATECH)
- Strengthens cross-border cooperation in key areas of sectoral policy, including environmental protection and industrial policy cooperation, as well as emergency response and cross-border preparedness

Working Group on Implementation

The Working Group on Implementation supports Parties and beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Program to strengthen the implementation of the provisions of the Convention

3 – 4 February 2022

- Special Session/Workshop on best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (ENG, FR and RUS)
- Best Practice Tables for Reporting Periods (Available at the following link: [Good practices in implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention | UNECE](#))



Joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents and its methodology



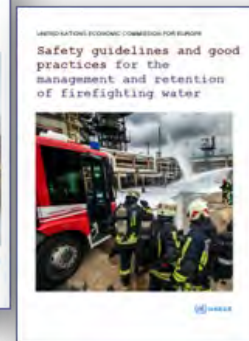
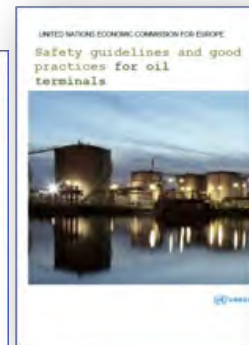
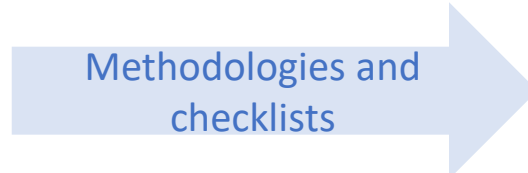
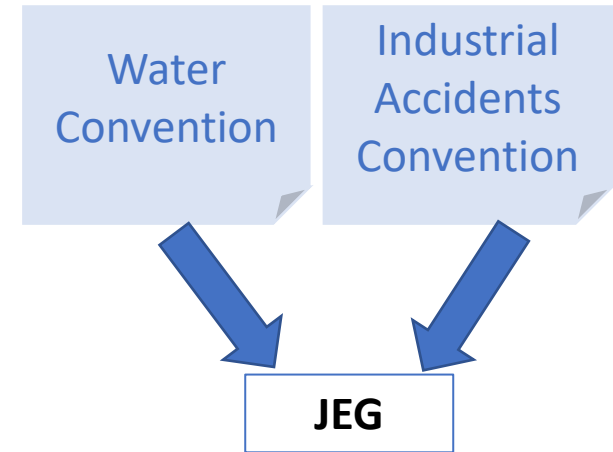
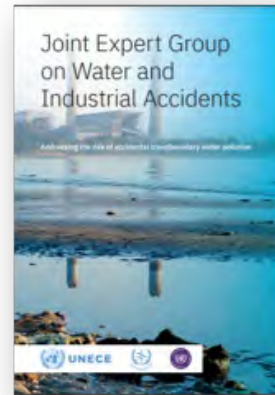
- Joint Expert Group (JEG):
 - Founded in 1998
 - Focused on preventing accidental water pollution, including **in the event of Natech accidents**, and its consequences
 - Combining integrated water resources management with industrial safety

Current JEG members from Central Asia:

- Kazakhstan



- Kyrgyzstan



UNECE Tailings Safety and Best Practice Guidelines and related methodology



Developed under the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and approved at COP-5 (2008) and WS-5 (2009)

Contains safety principles and recommendations for:

- Governments
- The competent authorities
- Tailings operators

Cover technical and organizational aspects related to:

- Construction preparation and construction
- Operation and management
- Object Inspection
- Identification, evaluation, and management of abandoned sites
- Planning for emergencies

A methodology has been developed to support countries in the practical application of the guidelines

Online Toolkit for Improving Tailings Safety

Promotes knowledge of tailings safety through online training on the application of relevant safety guidelines and methodology

Онлайн-инструментарий и подготовка по повышению безопасности хвостохранилищ

Общий обзор

Промышленные аварии на хвостохранилищах уже привели к экологическим катастрофам с разрушительными последствиями для людей и окружающей среды на территории стран и за их пределами. Крупные промышленные аварии в регионе ЕЭК ООН и за его пределами побудили страны разработать и внедрить инструменты в рамках Конвенции ЕЭК ООН о трансграничном воздействии промышленных аварий для повышения безопасности хвостохранилищ и предотвращения таких аварий в будущем.



Этот онлайн-инструментарий помогает странам в укреплении безопасности хвостохранилищ и практики управления ими. Он служит центральным узлом для всех, кто хочет узнать о важности обеспечения безопасности хвостохранилищ, соответствующей работе и инструментах в рамках Конвенции. В то же время он обеспечивает для стран дистанционную подготовку без необходимости личного присутствия, чтобы улучшить их знания о воздействиях и проблемах, связанных с хвостохранилищами, чтобы применять существующие руководящие принципы, включая инструменты ЕЭК ООН, для повышения безопасности хвостохранилищ. Этот интерактивный инструментариий и подготовка включают в себя четыре раздела в раскрывающемся меню ниже: справочная информация о безопасности хвостохранилищ; трехстадийная практическая учебная подготовка для стран по совершенствованию практики безопасного управления; резюме работы ЕЭК ООН по хвостохранилищам и партнеров; а также дополнительная литература, включающая ключевые доклады и ссылки на источники информации.

Повышение безопасности шахтных хвостохранилищ и улучшение управления ими позволяют странам лучше понимать риски бедствий и управлять ими, в том числе и в рамках межведомственного и межсекторального сотрудничества. Таким образом, эта работа способствует достижению целей Повестки дня на период до 2030 года с ее целями в области устойчивого развития и Сендайской рамочной программы по снижению риска бедствий. Это также укрепляет государственное управление недрами, устойчивую инфраструктуру и устойчивость к бедствиям как в самих странах, так и за их пределами.

Справочная информация - Призыв к незамедлительным действиям

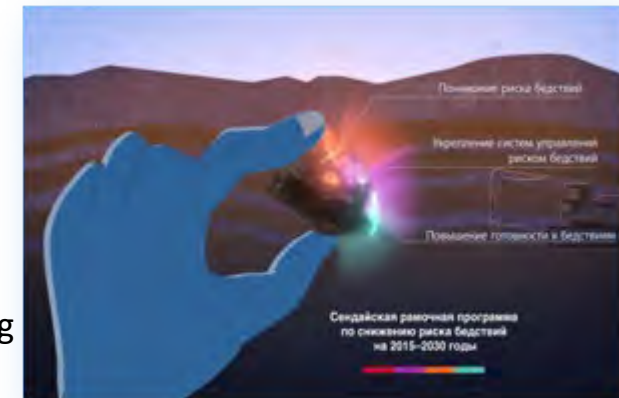
Практическая подготовка (3 стадии)

Работа ЕЭК ООН в области хвостохранилищ и партнеры

Дополнительная литература - ключевые доклады и ссылки на источники информации по безопасности хвостохранилищ

Consists of:

- Reference information on the safety of tailings
- Practical training: 3-step approach
- Brief information on UNECE work related to tailings and partners
- Further reading (main reports and links)
- Available at: <https://unece.org/ru/environment-policy/industrial-accidents/onlayn-instrumentariy-i-podgotovka-po-povysheniyu>



Includes tailings safety training video (Eng, Rus)

Central Asian countries and the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

- Kazakhstan is only Party to the Convention in Central Asia
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan signed a high-level declaration and thereby committed to:
 - Submit regular reports on the implementation of the Convention
 - Work towards joining the Convention



- Since 2005, all Central Asian countries have been beneficiaries of the Assistance and Cooperation Program of the UNECE Convention and receives support (mainly through project activities, including trainings, seminars, reports and recommendations, exchange of information and experience)
- With the support of the Convention secretariat, over the recent years the Central Asian countries prepared self-assessments, action plans, tailings training and legal analysis of legislation to strengthen the implementation of the provisions of the Convention
- Central Asian countries collaborate with the Implementation Working Group to strengthen industrial safety and cross-border cooperation
- Tajikistan and Kazakhstan have both established IIWGs; Uzbekistan is currently considering the establishment of an IIWG



Proposed Next Steps



By October 31, 2023 - Submit a report for the 10th round of reporting on the implementation of the Convention

2023 - onwards Consider accession to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention to further strengthen industrial safety, cross-border cooperation and knowledge sharing

Identification and notification of neighboring countries of hazardous activities, including tailings, and implementation of other basic requirements of the Convention

Thank you for your attention!
Questions?