



OECD GUIDING PRINCIPLES & LEGAL INSTRUMENT ON CHEMICAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Stakeholder Consultation – National Policy Dialogue on Industrial Safety
Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, 20 September 2023



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**;

Participation open to OECD Members *and other interested countries*.



Released in June 2023!



Decision-Recommendation of the
Council concerning Chemical
Accident Prevention,
Preparedness and Response



**OECD Legal
Instruments**



**OECD Guiding Principles
for Chemical Accident Prevention,
Preparedness and Response**

THIRD EDITION





Decision-Recommendation of the
Council concerning Chemical
Accident Prevention,
Preparedness and Response



OECD Legal
Instruments

- OECD Legal Instrument;
- Sets out key high-level elements to support the development of:
 - National programmes for the prevention, preparedness and response to chemical accidents;
 - Access to and provision of information to the public;
 - Chemicals accidents capable of causing transboundary damage;
 - Co-operation and technical assistance.
- <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0490>



Excerpts: *Programmes for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to chemical accidents*

Adherents shall:

- a) develop overall safety objectives related to the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents;
- b) develop and implement control frameworks covering all aspects of chemical accident prevention, emergency preparedness and mitigation of accidents, emergency response, and follow-up to accidents such as investigation, clean-up and recovery, recognising appropriate roles of all stakeholders including industry, labour and the public;
- c) establish arrangements for monitoring safety of hazardous installations and for enforcing any requirements related to the control framework;
- d) arrange for the development and implementation of compatible off-site and on-site emergency preparedness plans for hazardous installations;
- e) establish arrangements for land-use planning in order to mitigate possible off-site effects of a chemical accident, recognising also the need to take into account the possibility of chemical accidents that are capable of causing transboundary damage. This shall cover:
 - siting of new hazardous installations;
 - modification of existing hazardous installations;
 - inappropriate developments near existing hazardous installations.
- f) ensure that chemical accidents with significant consequences or with potential for learning lessons are investigated with regard to their causes, recommendations made, and measures adopted to prevent their recurrence.
- g) report these accidents, together with lessons learnt, to the relevant bodies as defined in the programme.



Excerpts: *Access to and provision of information to the public*

Adherents shall:

1. Ensure, through the legal and procedural means they deem appropriate, that the potentially affected public:
 - a) is provided with specific information on the appropriate behaviour and safety measures they should adopt in the event of a chemical accident;
 - b) is provided with general information on the nature, extent and potential off-site effects on human health or the environment, including property, of possible chemical accidents at a planned or existing hazardous installation;
 - c) has access to such other available information needed to understand the nature of the possible effects of an accident (such as information on hazardous substances capable of causing serious off-site damage) and to be able to contribute effectively to decisions concerning hazardous installations and the development of community emergency preparedness plans.

2. Take measures, through the legal and procedural means they deem appropriate, so that, where a potential chemical accident at a hazardous installation may cause transboundary damage, appropriate information is made available to the public authorities of the potentially affected jurisdiction, so that the potentially affected public is informed, as far as possible, to the same degree as in the jurisdiction in which the hazardous installation is located.



OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response

THIRD EDITION



- **Technical guidance supporting the implementation of the Decision-Recommendation;**
- Sets out general guidance for the safe planning and operation of hazardous installations;
- Reflects on lessons learnt from major accidents since the 2nd edition (2003), and emerging issues such as climate change adaptation and the response to unexpected crises.



1. GENERAL RULES



Prioritise chemical accident risk prevention, preparedness and response



Identify the hazards and understand risks of chemical accidents



Communicate widely on all aspects of chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response



Co-operate amongst stakeholders to facilitate effective chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response



2. ROLE OF INDUSTRY (including management and labour)



Promote a mature safety culture throughout the enterprise



Establish safety management systems and regularly review their implementation



Utilise inherently safer technology principles in designing and operating hazardous installations



Identify and manage the risks arising from change



Prepare and plan for any chemical accidents that may occur



Educate and train for employees to work safely



Track and learn from past accidents



Seek continuous improvement through applying good engineering and management practices



Exercise corporate governance in all operations and all locations of an enterprise



3. ROLE OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES



Develop, enforce and continuously improve policies, regulations, and practices



Motivate all stakeholders to fulfil their roles and responsibilities



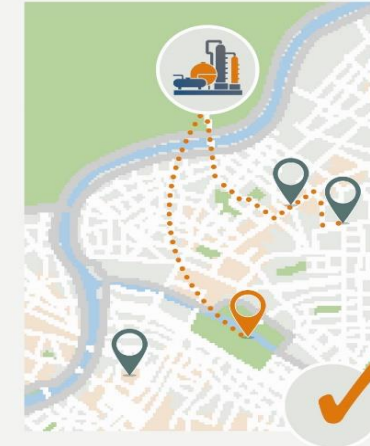
Monitor industry to ensure that risks are properly understood and addressed



Help ensure that there is effective communication and co-operation among stakeholders



Plan and prepare for the effects of chemical accidents through appropriate response measures



Establish appropriate and coherent land-use planning policies and processes



Part I Prevention of chemical accidents

General principles for prevention

Prevention of chemical accidents: Principles to industry

- Corporate governance and process safety management
- Management of change
- Risk assessment and safety reports
- Siting, design and construction
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Decommissioning, closure and demolition
- Responsible risk management – responsible management of hazardous substances and technology

Prevention of chemical accidents: Principles to public authorities

- Safety strategy
- Control framework
- Inspection and enforcement



Part II Emergency preparedness and mitigation

General principles for preparedness and mitigation

- Establish emergency planning programmes
- Identify areas and populations potentially at risk
- Co-ordinate onsite and offsite planning
- Communicate with the public
- Review and test emergency plans
- Assess and ensure the availability of resources
- Engage in international co-operation
- Prepare for cyber events
- Plan for events of (potential) international health concern

Emergency preparedness and mitigation: Principles to public authorities

- Ensure and support the development of offsite and onsite emergency plans
- Identify all parties involved in emergency response
- Educate and train personnel involved in emergency response
- Communicate with the public and the media
- Plan for response to health impacts
- Plan for the protection of the environment

Emergency preparedness and mitigation: Principles to industry

- Develop an onsite emergency plan
- Co-operate with the development of offsite emergency plans



Part III Emergency response

General principles for response

Emergency response: Principles to industry

Emergency response: Principles to public authorities

- Activate the offsite emergency plan
- Call on the on-scene co-ordinator
- Establish systems to provide real-time information to assess response
- Establish zones at the accident scene
- Organise response for health impacts
- Document decisions and actions



Part IV Follow-up to incidents

Incident investigations

- General principles
- Principles to industry
- Principles to public authorities

Incident documentation and reporting

- Principles to industry
- Principles to public authorities

Sharing lessons learnt from accidents

Assessment of consequences



Part V Special issues

Land-use planning

Communication with the public for prevention, preparedness and response

- Responsibilities of industry and public authorities
- Provision of information to the public
- Public participation

Transport interfaces, port areas, pipelines and marshalling yards



Next Meetings of the OECD Working Party on Chemical Accidents

- 24-26 October 2023, OECD Boulogne Annex (near Paris) and online
- 22-24 October 2024, OECD Paris and online