

Introduction

This issue of the MAP Factsheet gives an update of the Directive 2003/105/EC* of the European Parliament and Council of 16 December 2003 amending Council Directive 96/82/EC (so-called Seveso II Directive) on the control of major-accidents hazards involving dangerous substances. Member States are required to implement provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by July 2005.

Key Changes

The amendment to the Seveso II Directive (96/82/EC) on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances is launched mainly in response to major accidents in Toulouse (France), in Enschede (the Netherlands), Baia Mare (Romania) and in Aznalcollar (Spain). The main objective was a broadening of its scope.

Some key changes are the following:

- Covers storage and processing activities in chemical and thermal operations and operational tailing disposal facilities including ponds and dams.
- Revision of definitions of explosive and pyrotechnic substances.
- Review of the categories and threshold values for ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate-based fertilisers.
- Extension of the list of carcinogens:
 - new additions; 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2-dimethylhydrazine, dimethyl sulphate, diethyl sulphate, benzotrithloride, hydrazine and 1,2-dibromoethane
 - increase of the “qualifying quantities” for certain substances from 1 kg to 0.5 tonnes for application of Articles 6/7 and to 2 tonnes for application of Article 9.
 - applicable to carcinogens in solution above 5%.
- Lower thresholds for substances classified as dangerous to the environment:
 - R50 (including now also R50/53) from 200 to 100 tonnes for the application of Articles 6/7 and from 500 to 200 tonnes for application of Article 9
 - R51/53 from 500 to 200 tonnes for the application of Articles 6/7 and from 2000 to 500 tonnes for application of Article 9.
- Separation of industrial establishment from inhabited areas and other public frequented areas, inclusion of major transport routes.
- Industrial operators must assess risks and establish safety reports and safety management including setting up a prevention policy within 1 year and ensure training of all staff and persons to be affected including subcontracted personnel.
- Correction to addition rule more specifically some clarification.
- The Commission is invited to draw up guidelines for database to assess compatibility between Seveso II establishments and sensitive areas.

Industry Impact

- Increased scope (both types of operations and substances covered) may require certain production facilities to become compliant with Seveso II. Certain additives used for manufacture of PU products are classified with R50 or R51/53.
- Changing proximity of a production plant to a public/inhabited area could have important consequences for certain production facilities. So far, the terminology “maintain appropriate distances” is used with no specific definitions.
- Increased focus on security measures.



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