

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC ABOUT A COMAH ESTABLISHMENT

Information for the public about an establishment subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH)

The system to provide public information about COMAH establishments in Great Britain (GB) has been made available to the public in a phased manner since 1 June 2015. The purpose of this new way of accessing information via a website is to enable people to find out about COMAH establishments in their local area.

The information relates to operational establishments which are subject to the above Regulations because certain dangerous substances are present at or above the qualifying thresholds in the Regulations.

The information will be specific to your search. It tells you about the type of business and the controls in place to minimise the likelihood of a major accident. You may take reassurance from the fact that many COMAH establishments have existed for a number of years and their operators understand the requirements placed on them to operate safely.

Although the substances used or stored at COMAH establishments can be dangerous, the establishments are strictly regulated under the COMAH Regulations 2015 and have to manage their activities in a way which reduce risks to workers and the public. Operators must take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and to limit their consequences for people and the environment. This is achieved through appropriate plant design, process control, mitigation measures and emergency procedures.

The regulations are enforced by a Competent Authority which comprises jointly the Health and Safety Executive in GB and the relevant environment agency (the Environment Agency in England, Scottish Environment Protection Agency in Scotland and Natural Resources Body for Wales in Wales). Nuclear establishments are regulated by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the relevant environment agency.

There are two types (tiers) of establishment which are subject to COMAH, known as 'Upper Tier' and 'Lower Tier' depending on the quantity of dangerous substances they hold. Upper Tier establishments will hold greater quantities of dangerous substances meaning that additional requirements are placed on them by the Regulations.

PART 1 - INFORMATION FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS

Operator

Operator Name	Solvay Solutions UK Limited
Trading As	

Address

Establishment Name Oldbury

Address

Town **OLDBURY**
County **West Midlands**
Post Code **B69 4LN**

Establishment

Is Establishment subject to COMAH Regulations?	Yes
Upper or Lower tier Establishment?	Upper Tier
Notification submitted to Competent Authority?	Yes
Activities at establishment	Production of inorganic chemicals

Further Information

Date of last planned COMAH site visit by the Competent Authority 14/02/2017

Inspection Plan	You can obtain more detailed information about the inspection and the related inspection plan from the Competent Authority website (http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/comah-establishments.htm)
Further Relevant Information	You can obtain more information from the operator of the establishment

Information about relevant dangerous substances which could cause a major accident

Hazard Classification of Relevant Dangerous Substances	Dangerous substances/mixtures that react adversely with water
	Flammable liquids and gases
Principle Dangerous Characteristics of These Substances In Simple Terms	Hazardous to the aquatic environment
	Pyrophoric liquids and/or solids
	Self-reactive substances and mixtures and organic peroxides
	Toxic
	Causes damage to organs
	Causes skin burns and eye damage
	Fire/explosion
	Flammable - gas, aerosol, liquid
	May cause respiratory irritation
	Reacts adversely with water
	Toxic if inhaled
	Toxic if swallowed
	Toxic in contact with skin
	Toxic to aquatic life

Emergency Information

The following general information does not replace any emergency information already provided if you live / work in close proximity to an upper-tier COMAH establishment.

How public will be warned	If a major accident occurs members of the public who may be affected will be warned by an intermittent tone from the site siren
Electronic source of information	

PART 2 - PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR ALL UPPER TIER SITES ONLY

All scenarios that could lead to a major accident have been identified and the necessary measures have been taken to prevent such accidents and limit their consequences to human health and the environment.

All people who live or work close to the establishment (i.e. within the public information zone (PIZ)) who may be affected by a major accident have been provided with information on the actions they should take to protect themselves in the event of an emergency.

Safety Report submitted to Competent Authority?	Yes
-------------------------------------------------	-----

Information about the major accident hazards and scenarios and the control measures in place at this establishment to address them

Nature of major accident hazards	Accidental release of dangerous substances
	Explosion
	Fire

Main types of major accident scenarios	<p>Explosion - Levels of blast overpressure which may be harmful to humans and animals and damage buildings. Projectiles travelling at high speeds may also spread from the explosion presenting a risk to people, animals and damage buildings. Explosions may also initiate fires.</p> <p>Fire - Ranges from an intense fire lasting several seconds to large fires lasting several minutes or hours. Potential for fire damage to people and the environment and fires may spread to other areas, a drifting cloud of flammable gas may ignite. Fires may generate smoke clouds which may lead to breathing difficulties and deposition of soot on property and vegetation.</p> <p>Liquid release - liquid flowing on-site and off-site to sewer, freshwater, estuarine waters, coastal waters, land or groundwater. Damage to people and the environment. Environmental pollution and contamination of drinking water supplies</p> <p>Release of contaminated fire water containing dangerous substances - to sewer, freshwater, estuarine waters, coastal waters, land or groundwater</p> <p>Toxic gas or smoke - a gas cloud or smoke plume (includes ecotoxic smoke) containing dangerous substances</p>
Control measures to address accident scenarios	<p>Arrangements are in place to inform, instruct, train and supervise the workforce</p> <p>Emergency response systems & procedures are in place</p> <p>Establishment has a detailed way of working with policy, operating standards and a Health, Safety and Environmental management system to maintain and improve safety and environmental performance</p> <p>Key operating units and storage facilities are fitted with automatic shutdown and isolation systems</p> <p>Key operating units and/or relevant warehouses/storage facilities are fitted with fire detection and/or suppressant and/or protection systems.</p>
The potential consequences of major accident hazards	
Potential consequences on Human Health	<p>Airborne material, if inhaled can cause burning of the eyes and throat, coughing or breathing difficulties</p> <p>Harmful if inhaled</p> <p>Harmful in contact with skin (irritation/damage to eyes or skin)</p> <p>Potential for burns to body (possibly life threatening)</p> <p>Potentially fatal if inhaled</p> <p>Substantial exposure to toxic chemicals (potentially fatal)</p> <p>Very dense smoke may cause irritation of the lining of the air passages (nose, throat and lungs) the skin and the eyes</p>
Potential consequences on the Environment	<p>Dangerous substances discharged to sewer, causing harm to the bacteria in the sewage treatment works resulting in the discharge of untreated sewage into freshwater or estuarine waters causing harm to the aquatic environment</p> <p>Dangerous substances entering freshwater or estuarine waters and causing harm to the aquatic environment</p>
Confirmation that arrangements are in place to deal with major accidents and minimise their consequences	<p>This establishment has prepared an internal emergency plan to deal with major accidents and has liaised with the emergency services in order to deal with major accidents and to minimise their effects.</p>

<p>Appropriate information from the external emergency plan about consequences outside the establishment arising from a major accident</p>	<p>An external emergency plan has been drawn up by the local authority to deal with any consequences outside this establishment as a result of a major accident.</p> <p>In the event of a spillage of dangerous substances into the watercourse, appropriate action will be taken to minimise the effects to the environment.</p> <p>In the event of a spillage/firewater run-off, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the emergency plan.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of a major accident there may be immediate harm from the dangerous substances involved. There may also be disruption arising from the actions of the emergency services e.g. road closures. There could be disruption to transport and other local services. Members of the public are advised to co-operate with any instructions or requests from emergency services in the event of an accident.</p>
<p>Could a major accident impact another EU Country?</p>	<p>No</p>