



FIRE SAFETY:

Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH 2015)

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INTRODUCTION

COMAH 2015 came into force on the 1st June 2015 and revoked the COMAH regulations of 1999. Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Regulations lists named dangerous substances. Anhydrous Ammonia is number 35 on the list and the qualifying quantity in tonnes for the application of lower tier requirements is 50 tonnes. The qualifying quantity for upper tier is 200 tonnes.

Under the new regulations all COMAH premises will be required to have major accident prevention policies in place.

In addition, upper tier premises must:

1. Prepare and review safety reports for the purpose of demonstrating:
 - That a major accident prevention policy and safety management system for implementing it have been put into effect
 - That major accident hazards and possible major accident scenarios in relation to the establishment have been taken to prevent such accidents and limit their consequences for human health and their environment
 - That adequate safety and reliability have been taken into account in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of any installation, storage facility, equipment and infrastructure connected with the establishments operation which are linked to major accident hazards inside the establishment
 - That an internal emergency plan has been prepared in accordance with regulation 12, which includes sufficient information to enable an external emergency plan to be prepared
 - Providing sufficient information to the competent authority to enable decisions to be made regarding the siting of new activities or developments around the establishments.
2. Prepare internal and external emergency plans with the following objectives:
 - Containing and controlling incidents so as to minimise the consequences, and to limit damage to human health, the environment and property
 - Implementing the necessary measures to protect human health and the environment from the consequences of major accidents
 - Communicating the necessary information to the public and to the services or authorities concerned in the area; and
 - Providing for the restoration and clean-up of the environment following a major accident.

Plans must be tested and reviewed at intervals not exceeding three years.





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