
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2015 No. 325

The Control of Major Accident Hazards
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

PART 2

GENERAL DUTIES OF OPERATORS OF ALL ESTABLISHMENTS

Major accident prevention policies

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (4), every operator shall prepare and retain a written major accident prevention policy.

(2) A major accident prevention policy shall—

- (a) be designed to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment;
- (b) be proportionate to the major accident hazards;
- (c) set out the operator's overall aims and principles of action; and
- (d) set out the role and responsibility of management, and its commitment towards continuously improving the control of major accident hazards.

(3) A major accident prevention policy shall be prepared by the operator—

- (a) of a new establishment, within—
 - (i) a reasonable period of time prior to construction or operation of the establishment; or
 - (ii) a reasonable period of time period prior to modifications leading to a change in the inventory of dangerous substances at the establishment;
- (b) of an existing establishment, by 1st June 2016;
- (c) of an other establishment, within one year beginning on the date on which the establishment, or site of operation, first becomes an other establishment.

(4) Where—

- (a) the operator of an existing establishment had, immediately before 28th September 2015, prepared and retained a major accident prevention policy under regulation 5 of the 2000 Regulations;
- (b) the information contained within that policy remains materially unchanged; and
- (c) that policy complies with the requirements of these Regulations,

the operator is not required to prepare a further major accident prevention policy under paragraph (1).

(5) Where an operator of an existing establishment is not required to prepare a major accident prevention policy by virtue of paragraph (4)—

- (a) the major accident prevention policy prepared by that operator under regulation 5 of the 2000 Regulations is to be treated as a major accident prevention policy prepared under this regulation; and

- (b) the policy shall be retained by the operator in accordance with this regulation.
- (6) An operator shall review its major accident prevention policy—
 - (a) in the event of—
 - (i) a significant increase or decrease in the quantity of dangerous substances notified under regulation 6; or
 - (ii) a significant change in—
 - (aa) the nature or physical form of the dangerous substances notified under regulation 6; or
 - (bb) the processes employing them,which could have significant consequences in terms of major accident hazards; and
 - (b) in any event no later than five years after the date on which the policy was last reviewed, and where necessary it shall revise and retain the revised policy.
- (7) An operator shall implement its major accident prevention policy by a safety management system.
- (8) A safety management system shall—
 - (a) satisfy the requirements in paragraph 1 of Schedule 2; and
 - (b) address the matters specified in paragraph 2 of that Schedule.