

## NEBOSH Environmental Certificate

### Unit EC1 - Management and Control of Environmental Hazards

#### Introduction

This Supplement contains updates to your study material for Unit EC1 of the NEBOSH Certificate in Environmental Management. Please read it carefully.

#### Element 2: Environmental Management Systems

The Key Features and Appropriate Content of an Effective EMS

##### Implementation and Operation

###### Emergency Preparedness and Response (Clause 4.4.7)

In the second paragraph under this subheading, “**COMAH Directive (96/82/EC)**” has been updated to “**COMAH Directive (12/18/EU)**”.

#### Element 6: Control of Waste and Land Use

##### Categories of Waste

###### Hazardous Waste

At the end of this subsection, the text in the **MORE** box now reads:

“The UK environmental regulators have produced a useful guide on how waste material should be assessed to determine whether it should be treated as legally hazardous:

*Waste Classification: Guidance on the classification and assessment of waste (WM3)* – available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/427077/LIT\\_10121.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/427077/LIT_10121.pdf)”

##### Managing Waste

###### Electrical and Electronic Waste

###### Batteries

In this subsection, “**Directive 2006/66/EC on Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators**” has been updated to “**Directive 2006/66/EC on Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators (as amended)**”.

##### Outlets Available for Waste

###### Costs and The Impact of Landfill and Aggregate Taxes

###### Landfill Tax

The fourth paragraph under this subheading has been updated to read:

“The current rates for LFT are £2.60 per tonne for inert wastes and £82.60 per tonne for active waste.”

In the penultimate paragraph, “currently 5.1% of the tax liability” has been updated to “currently 5.7% of the tax liability”.

## Element 9: Planning For and Dealing With Environmental Emergencies

### Planning for Emergencies

In the **KEY INFORMATION** box at the beginning of this main section, “**Directive 96/82/EC**” in the first bullet point has been updated to “**Directive 12/18/EU**”.

### Emergency Response Plan

In the first paragraph of this subsection, the last sentence has been amended to read:

“In fact, larger industrial organisations that store chemicals above certain threshold limits are required, under **EU Directive 12/18/EU** on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances (known as the **COMAH Directive**), to have an emergency plan in place that meets specified criteria.”

The **TOPIC FOCUS** box in this subsection has been replaced by the one shown below.

#### TOPIC FOCUS

##### COMAH

**EU Directive 12/18/EU** on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances is generally referred to as the **COMAH Directive**. It is implemented in the UK by the **Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015**.

The **COMAH Directive** was introduced in the wake of the Seveso disaster. This emergency occurred in 1976 at a chemical plant located close to the Italian town of the same name. A process failure at the plant led to the release into the atmosphere of quantities of a highly toxic dioxin compound. Several hundred people in the surrounding area suffered skin lesions and over 80,000 farm animals had to be slaughtered to prevent dioxin entering the food chain.

The aim of the Directive is to reduce the risk of similar accidents occurring at installations that handle significant quantities of hazardous substances:

- The **COMAH Directive and Regulations** define upper and lower threshold quantities for a specified range of hazardous chemicals.
- Any site that stores any of the specified chemicals in quantities greater than either of the threshold quantities, must register with the Competent Authority (the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency in England and Wales; the HSE and Scottish Environment Protection Agency in Scotland).
- If only the lower threshold quantity is exceeded, the site is designated as a ‘lower-tier’ site; any site which exceeds the higher threshold becomes an ‘upper-tier’ site.

Designated sites must take a range of actions to prevent accidents and limit their consequences, such as:

- Provide basic site details to the Competent Authority.
- Prepare a major accident prevention policy.

Upper-tier sites must also:

- Produce a regular site-safety report.
- Prepare and test an on-site (internal) emergency plan.
- Supply information to the local authority to enable an off-site (external) emergency plan to be prepared.
- Provide information to local residents about the substances held and emergency arrangements.

## Inventory of Materials

The **TOPIC FOCUS** box on the COMAH Regulations in this subsection has been deleted.

## REVISION QUESTIONS

Question 2 is now:

“Which sites are subject to the requirements of the **Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Directive** (the ‘**COMAH**’ **Directive 12/18/EU**)?”

(The answer is unchanged.)