

NEBOSH Award in Health, Safety and Environment for the Process Industries

Introduction

This Supplement contains updates to your study material for Units PS1 and PS2 of the NEBOSH Process Industries Award. Please read it carefully.

UNIT PS1: PROCESS SAFETY

Element 1: The Foundations of Process Safety

Legal Requirements

In the **KEY INFORMATION** box at the beginning of this main section, the first and second bullet points have been updated to read:

- “The Seveso III Directive has been developed to control major accidents in the European Union.
- The **COMAH Regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015)** cover the prevention of major accidents in the process and other high hazard industries in Great Britain (note – these laws do not cover Northern Ireland). They apply to organisations storing specific quantities of dangerous substances on their site.”

Importance of Health and Safety Regulatory Frameworks For Major Hazard Industries

Importance of International/National Standards for Major Hazard Industries

The first three paragraphs in this subsection have been amended and now read as follows:

“One of the key health and safety laws for process industries located within the European Union is the Seveso III Directive (officially known as **Directive 12/18/EU on the control of major accident hazards**). The main precursor for the original Seveso Directive was an accident at a chemical plant that manufactured pesticides and herbicides in Seveso, Italy, in 1976. The accident resulted in the release of a dense cloud of a poisonous and cancer-causing substance (a dioxin) into the air which although it caused no fatalities resulted in the treatment of 2,000 people for dioxin poisoning and the contamination of ten square miles of land. The original Directive was adopted in 1982 with the Seveso II Directive being adopted in 1996 and the Seveso III Directive in 2012.

The Seveso III Directive has a number of key requirements aimed at controlling major accident hazards, including:

- The operator notifying a competent authority before starting activities.
- Development of a major accident prevention policy.
- Submission of a site safety report.
- Development of a safety management system.
- Controlling land use (e.g. location of new establishments and nearby developments).
- Providing information to the public.
- Accident reporting.

The Seveso III Directive has been mainly implemented in the UK under the **Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015**, commonly known as the **COMAH Regulations**.”

The text in the **TOPIC FOCUS** box has also been amended and now reads:

“The COMAH Regulations

These Regulations apply to premises which:

- Keep listed dangerous substances in quantities exceeding stated thresholds.
- Use substances which are flammable, explosive, toxic or dangerous to the environment.

COMAH differentiates between those sites deemed to be of higher risk (‘upper tier’), due to the quantities of dangerous substances stored or used, and lower risk sites (‘lower tier’).

Operators of establishments covered by **COMAH** must:

- Take all measures necessary to prevent or mitigate the effects of major accidents to people and the environment. Demonstration of the presence of adequate safety measures is a key part of the process.
- Prepare a Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAPP), which should demonstrate that there is an adequate safety management system in place.
- Send details of the types and quantities of hazardous substances to the competent authority.
- Send a Site Safety Report to the authority for approval (‘upper-tier’ sites only).”

Summary

In this main section, the first bullet point has been amended to read:

- “The Seveso III Directive and the **COMAH Regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015)** cover the prevention of major accidents in the process and other high hazard industries.”

Suggested Answers to Revision Questions

Unit PS1 Element 1: The Foundations of Process Safety

Question 1

In this answer, the last bullet point has been amended to read:

- “‘Upper tier’ sites must send a Site Safety Report to the competent authority for approval.”

UNIT PS2: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Element 2: Control of Emissions

Classification of Waste

Waste Classification

In the **TOPIC FOCUS** box in this subsection, the second bullet point has been amended to read:

- **“Hazardous Waste (Special Waste in Scotland)**

A waste is classified as ‘hazardous’ if it is:

- a controlled waste, **and**
- listed as a hazardous waste in the **Wastes Decision 2000/532/EC.**”