

Public Information on an upper-tier establishment as required by Regulation 25

Information on upper-tier establishments

All establishments subject to the *COMAH Regulations 2015* have submitted a notification in a standard form to the Authority. This includes information on their location, the hazard categories of the dangerous substances present with an indication of their dangers, emergency action information and sources of additional relevant information.

Additional information has been provided by upper-tier establishments, including details on the possible major accidents arising in the establishment and the action to take in the event of an emergency.

General Duties on Operators

Operators have a general duty to identify all the major accident hazards in their establishment, take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and to limit the consequences of such accidents to human health and the environment.

Operators of upper-tier establishments are also specifically required to ensure that 'all persons likely to be affected' by a major accident originating at the establishment receive clear and intelligible information on safety measures and on what they should do in the event of a major accident. This information must be directly supplied to all buildings and areas of public use, including schools and hospitals and, in the case of domino groups, to all neighbouring establishments.

Information on emergency plans

Information on external emergency plans may also be available from the Local Authority, the Gardaí and the Health Services Executive.

Public information for an upper-tier establishment

This establishment is subject to the COMAH Regulations 2015 and has submitted a notification to the Authority.

The following information, which has been extracted from the notification, fulfils the requirements of Regulation 25(3)(a).

The date of the most recent COMAH inspection (added by the Central Competent Authority) can also be found in the table below.



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

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Notification History

The National Oil Reserves Agency Ltd.

Version	Reason	Date
1.0	Mandatory notification	31/05/2016
2.0	Information update	30/11/2017
3.0	Information update	10/07/2019
4.0	Information update	29/09/2020
5.0	Information update	13/10/2021
6.0	Information update	06/10/2022
7.0	Information update	02/03/2023
8.0	Information update	05/12/2024

Regulation 25 information for National Oil Reserves Agency DAC

Operator Name	Registered Name	National Oil Reserves Agency DAC
	Trade Name	National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA)
Establishment Address	Address	Mainland Tankfarm, Tarbert (Demesne), Tarbert
	County	Kerry
	Eircode	V31 AW62
Notification Details	Tier	Upper-tier
	Activity	Fuel storage (including heating, retail sale etc.)
Dangerous Substance information	Hazard Categories / Named Substances	E2 Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment, P5c Flammable Liquids, Petroleum Products (Diesel, Kerosene)
	Dangerous Characteristics / Hazard Statements	H226, H411
Emergency Information	How the public will be warned	The public likely to be affected will be warned by one or more on-site sirens.
	Behaviour to take in event of major accident	As we are an upper-tier establishment, we send leaflets to the persons likely to be affected, which includes this information.
	Additional Information	The only persons likely to be affected by a major accident at the NORA site farm would be the SSE Tarbert Generating Station. The activities at the NORA site do not present any significant risk to personnel at the SSE site. The only situation in which SSE may be required to take action in the event of a major accident would be in making available a facility on the SSE site for use as a crisis control centre by NORA/TOP and the emergency responders.
Inspection	Most recent COMAH Inspection (updated quarterly):	4 th September 2024
	Where more detailed information on inspection available	More detailed information about the inspection and the related inspection plan can be obtained upon request, subject to the requirements of Regulation 26, from: CCPS unit, Health & Safety Authority, Metropolitan Building, James Joyce Street, Dublin 1.
Information	Where further relevant information available	Further information about this establishment may be obtained, in the first instance, from the operator. http://nora.ie/ Subject to Regulation 26 ('Access to information and confidentiality') information may also be available from the Health and Safety Authority, on request, under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations.

Nature of major hazards (1)	Nature of major accident	Fire /Release of dangerous substances with potential for adverse environmental effects.
	Potential human health effects	Potential for burns to body. Very dense smoke may cause irritation of the lining of the air passages (nose, throat and lungs) the skin and the eyes.
	Potential environmental effects	Dangerous substances entering freshwater or estuarine waters and causing harm to the aquatic environment. Deposition of dangerous substances on protected habitats.
	Scenario details	Loss of containment from storage tank, up to 42,500 m ³ of petroleum product. The bund is sized in accordance with best practice recommendations, and so it has the capacity to retain the full contents of a tank. For releases of kerosene, the flash point of this product means that there would also be a risk of a pool fire. If the loss of containment were to occur as a result of catastrophic tank failure, then the momentum of the released material would be sufficient to cause some petroleum to overtop the bund and escape to the aquatic environment. The maximum quantity that could escape off site in this manner following catastrophic tank failure is calculated to be c.8,030 m ³ . The potential effects to human health described above are those that could be expected in the vicinity of a release/fire. The remote location of the site means that there are no sensitive developments in the vicinity which could be impacted by a major fire at the tank farm.
	Control measures	All of the establishments storage tanks, process vessels, pipework and control systems are designed and maintained to an appropriate standard to prevent major accidents. Containment systems are in place for relevant work areas to minimise the loss of spilled material to the environment. Key operating units and storage facilities are fitted with fire protection systems. Emergency response systems & procedures are in place. The tanks were built in accordance with API 650 and refurbished in accordance with API 650/653 and EEMUA 183. Tanks fitted with radar gauging system, with high and high-high level alarms, plus independent high-high level alarm. If the independent hi-hi level alarm loses power during a transfer, then the system would fail-safe. Lock and key controls on valves to prevent the wrong valve from being opened – valves are tagged when in use. Training of operators. Security presence on site at all times, CCTV, fencing around site. Regular maintenance inspections of tanks, valves, pipe work. Internal inspection of tank every 10 years or when tank is emptied, in accordance with IPIA Standard. Supervisors have logging procedure for transfers to ensure that all valves are locked. Area not normally accessible to vehicles. Tank Farm is Zoned in accordance with the ATEX Regulations There are double containment floors on tanks, with leak detection. Bund is fitted with an impermeable liner. Bund wall arrangement has been modified to reduce the amount of material that could potentially overtop in the event of catastrophic tank failure. Emergency Response

		Plan – NORA is a member the Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team (SEA-PT); in the event of a release off site, the Shannon Estuary Oil Spill Contingency Plan would be implemented. Tanks are fitted with weak shell-to-roof seams to allow emergency venting and protect against shell failure in the event of tank engulfment. Fire fighting systems are in place at the site: fixed foam system at Tank 12, fixed drenching system on Tank 11, firewater pumphouse and mobile systems.
	Onsite response	This establishment has prepared an internal emergency plan for major accidents which is tested at least every 3 years, has liaised with the emergency services and agreed on the actions and arrangements to deal with major accidents and minimise their effects.
	Offsite effects/action	A publicly available external emergency plan has been drawn up by the local authority, Gardaí and HSE to respond to any consequences outside this establishment as a result of a major accident. You should cooperate with the instructions of the emergency services.

Nature of major hazards (2)	Nature of major accident	Release of dangerous substances with potential for adverse environmental effects. Fire
	Potential human health effects	Potential for burns to body. Very dense smoke may cause irritation of the lining of the air passages (nose, throat and lungs) the skin and the eyes. .
	Potential environmental effects	Dangerous substances entering freshwater or estuarine waters and causing harm to the aquatic environment. Deposition of dangerous substances on protected habitats.
	Scenario details	Release of petroleum from pipeline between jetty and tank farm. In the event of a kerosene release, the flash point of this product means that there could also be a risk of a pool fire. For a loss of containment during a transfer of petroleum from the jetty to the tank farm, up to 210 m ³ of product could be released. The potential effects to human health, as described above, are those that could be expected in the vicinity of a release/fire. The remote location of the site means that there are no sensitive developments in the vicinity which could be impacted by a major fire at the tank farm.
	Control measures	All of the establishments storage tanks, process vessels, pipework and control systems are designed and maintained to an appropriate standard to prevent major accidents. Suitable arrangements are in place to prevent or minimise loss of containment of dangerous substances. Access to the site is strictly controlled. Emergency response systems & procedures are in place. No vehicular access to pipes; procedures to ensure that no construction work takes place in the vicinity of pipelines while a transfer is taking place; regular inspection and maintenance of pipelines; lines are cleared between transfers, reducing the risk of product being present in the event of the line being damaged; Pipelines are new build and were designed, installed, inspected and tested to ASME B31.3; Low level of activity at the tank farm (strategic storage) with very few product movements; lines are checked prior to commencing a transfer to or from the tank farm; training of operators; daily site visits by Management Contractor and nightly security patrols, CCTV, fencing around site; supervisors have a logging procedure for transfers to ensure that all valves are locked. Transfers are monitored at the ship and at the site – pumps would be quickly shut down in the event of a loss of containment at the pipelines; Emergency Response Plan – NORA is a member of the Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team (SEA-PT) and will contribute towards the Shannon Estuary Oil Spill Contingency Plan; discussions between the Management Contractors for the site and the Inter Agency Emergency Management Office (IAEMO) to coordinate the Internal and External Emergency Response Plans.
Onsite response	This establishment has prepared an internal emergency plan for major accidents which is tested at least every 3 years, has liaised with the emergency services and agreed on the actions and arrangements to deal with major accidents and minimise their effects.	

	Offsite effects/action	A publicly available external emergency plan has been drawn up by the local authority, Gardaí and HSE to respond to any consequences outside this establishment as a result of a major accident. You should cooperate with the instructions of the emergency services.
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