

A photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, featuring several tall, cylindrical distillation columns and a complex network of pipes and ladders. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with light clouds. The columns are made of metal and have various platforms and ladders attached to them. The overall impression is one of a large-scale industrial operation.

Allianz Engineering Inspection Services Ltd

Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 1999

Product Information

Allianz 

Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 1999

The COMAH regulations were introduced with the aim of preventing major accidents and to limit the consequences of such events to people and the environment.

Background

It is recognised that certain industrial activities involving dangerous substances have the potential for causing accidents that may give rise to serious injuries to people, or damage to the environment, such activities have come to be known as major accident hazards.

The COMAH Regulations operate at two levels (top tier and lower tier) depending on the quantities of dangerous substances stored at an establishment. Further information on the COMAH Regulations is available at: www.hse.gov.uk

Dangerous substances include those that are toxic, oxidizing, explosive, flammable or otherwise dangerous to the environment.

Regulation 4 of COMAH states that "every operator shall take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the environment."

Operators are required to perform a risk assessment of all identified hazards and develop measures that prevent and mitigate the consequences.

The following industries are likely to be affected:

- Chemical/process – including storage and distribution
- Petrochemical
- Water treatment
- Pharmaceutical
- Other industries where quantities of dangerous chemicals exceeding those thresholds set out in the regulations are used or stored.

Other Regulations or guidance to consider

- Pressure Safety Systems Regulations 2000 (PSSR)
- HSG 176 'The storage of Flammable Liquids in Tanks'
- The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER).

How Allianz Engineering can help

- Provision of site risk assessment in order to determine the hazards on site
- Formulation of an inspection plan that will address the risks identified
- Perform visual inspections in accordance with the plan
- Perform Non-Destructive Examination (NDE) inspections in accordance with the plan
- Supply of audited and approved NDE engineers.

Undertaking the above activities will assist operators in demonstrating compliance with Regulation 4 of COMAH.

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