Public Information and Participation in The Context of the Convention



Republic of Bulgaria

Ministry of Environment and Water

Requirements of the Convention

Article 9

- The public in the areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident arising out of a hazardous activity shoulf be informed
 - Annex VIII
 - taking into account matters set out in Annex V, paragraph 2, subparagraphs
 (1) to (4) and (9).
- The public in the areas capable of being affected should have an opportunity to participate in relevant procedures with the aim of making known its views and concerns on prevention and preparedness measures, and shall ensure that the opportunity given to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that given to the public of the Party of origin.
- Natural or legal persons who are being or are capable of being adversely affected by the transboundary effects of an industrial accident in the territory of a Party, with access to, and treatment in the relevant administrative and judicial proceedings, including the possibilities of starting a legal action and appealing a decision affecting their rights, equivalent to those available to persons within their own jurisdiction.

Requirements of the Convention

ANNEX VIII - INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 9

- 1. The name of the company, address of the hazardous activity and identification by position held of the person giving the information;
- 2. An explanation in simple terms of the hazardous activity, including the risks;
- 3. The common names or the generic names or the general danger classification of the substances and preparations which are involved in the hazardous activity, with an indication of their principal dangerous characteristics;
- 4. General information resulting from an environmental impact assessment, if available and relevant;
- 5. The general information relating to the nature of an industrial accident that could possibly occur in the hazardous activity, including its potential effects on the population and the environment;
- 6. Adequate information on how the affected population will be warned and kept informed in the event of an industrial accident;
- 7. Adequate information on the actions the affected population should take and on the behaviour they should adopt in the event of an industrial accident;
- 8. Adequate information on arrangements made regarding the hazardous activity, including liaison with the emergency services, to deal with industrial accidents, to reduce the severity of the industrial accidents and to mitigate their effects;
- 9. General information on the emergency services' off-site contingency plan, drawn up to cope with any off-site effects, including the transboundary effects of an industrial accident;
- 10. General information on special requirements and conditions to which the hazardous activity is subject according to the relevant national regulations and/or administrative provisions, including licensing or authorization systems;
- 11. Details of where further relevant information can be obtained.

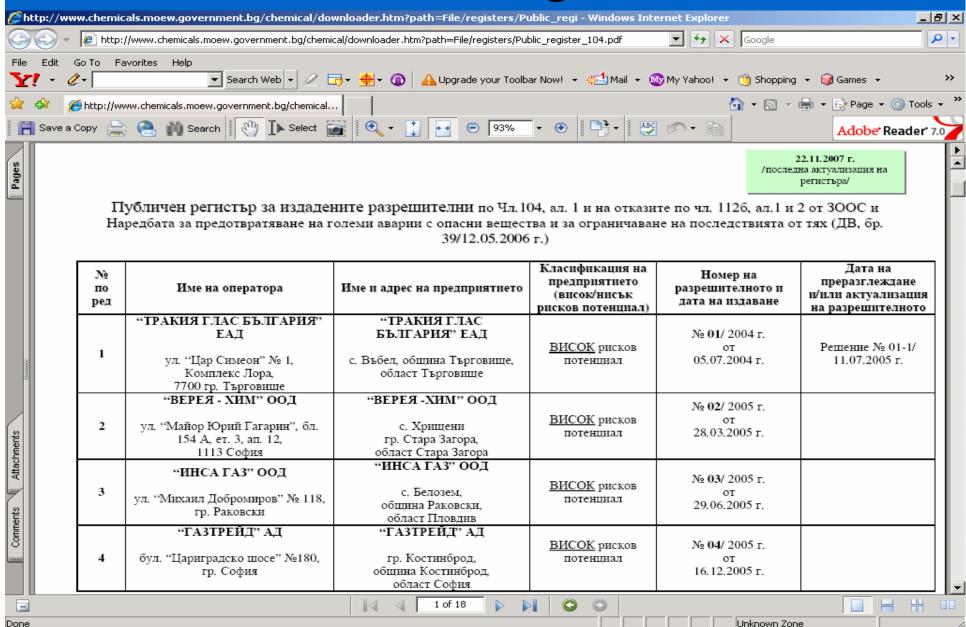
Implementation of the Requirements of the Convention in Bulgaria

- Legal Framework
 - Public Participation
 - Territory Arrangement Act
 - Landuse plans are subject to public discussion
 - Building permits can be appealed by affected persons
 - Environmental Protection Act
 - Several layers of public participation
 - EIA procedures
 - In early planning stages
 - Public meeting mandatory
 - Seveso procedures
 - Possibility for public participation prior issuing a permit mandatory
 - Duration one month
 - Announced by the local authorities (local press, announcements in public places) and the Ministry of environment and water (website, announcement at the publicly accessible information desk)
 - Everyone can submit his considerations
 - All procedures can be appealed

Implementation of the Requirements of the Convention in Bulgaria

- Legal Framework
 - Public Information
 - Territory Arrangement Act
 - Landuse plans and Building permits are announced publicly
 - Change of landuse plans and issuing of Building permits are subject to personal information to all direct neighbours
 - Environmental Protection Act
 - Chapter II Information on the Environment
 - All Information is accessible to the public
 - Chapter VII, Section I
 - Access to the documentation prepared by the operator
 - Access to the Safety report (after permitting)
 - Information to the public prepared and actively disseminated by the operator – meets the Annex VIII requirements
 - Public register of the hazardous activities
 - Emergency Situations Act
 - Public participation in the preparation of the External emergency plan
 - Training of the public on emergency issues
 - Stress on vulnerable public representatives children, ill and elderly people

Public Register



Access to the Documentation submitted to the operator

