

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Czech – German Joint Inspections

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Introduction

- Since 2007 the competent authorities of the Czech Republic and Saxony (Germany) are regularly performing joint inspections of hazardous facilities falling under the scope of the UNECE CTEIA
- The joint inspections are based on a complete voluntary approach between the competent authorities
- Joint inspections are conducted with operators agreement and they have no legal impacts
- The joint inspections are performed in a yearly period, alternately in the Czech Republic or Saxony



Institutional Implementation (March – August 2007)

- a) 5th Meeting of the Czech-German Working Group for the Implementation of the UNECE CTEIA, Prague:
→ **Proposal for Joint Inspections**
- b) 8th Meeting of the Czech-German Commission for Environmental Protection Cooperation, Bamberg:
→ **Adoption of the Proposal**
- c) Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture to Czech Ministry of the Environment:
→ **Letter of Invitation for Joint Inspections**
- d) Czech Ministry of the Environment and Inspectorate:
→ **Agreement and Confirmation of the Participants**

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Practical Implementation (August to October 2007)

- Elaboration and Dissemination of the Inspection Programme
- Information of the Operator
- Contracting Interpreters



2 October 2007: → 1st Joint Inspection in Germany

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Objective:

- Information Transfer
- Trust Building
- Rapid Mutual Assistance in Case of Emergency



Scope of the Inspections:

- Safety-relevant Installations/Measures
- Safety Management System
- Reporting and Evaluation of Hazards and Near Misses
- Information on Exercises for Contingency Planning



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In the meantime each year Joint Inspections were performed:

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|-------------|--|
| 2007 | Chemical installation for the production of Hydrofluoric Acid, Germany |
| 2008 | Chemical installation for the production of Cryogenic Gases, Czech Republic |
| 2009 | Fuel Storage Tanks, Germany |
| 2010 | Transshipment and Storage of Fertilizers, Czech Republic |
| 2011 | Facilities for the production of Silicone Polymers, Germany |
| 2012 | Production of Epoxide Resins, Czech Republic |

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Resume:

- High interest from both sides to continue in Joint Inspections
- Learning from each other is raising the quality of inspections
- High trust building capacity to operators and authorities
- Harmonizing Safety Standards
- Improving mutual assistance through personal contacts
- Rapid exchange of information in case of incidents with potential transboundary impact

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→ Joint Inspections could be an Example for Good Neighbourhood Practice within the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

- Completely voluntary
- Easy to implement
- Improving quality
- High trust building capacity
- Harmonizing Safety Standards



→ Synergies and benefits for all sites

Thank You for Attention!