

COMAH – Control of Major Accident Hazards 2015

Main Aim of Regulations

The main aim of the regulations is to prevent and mitigate the effects of those major accidents involving dangerous substances, such as chlorine, liquefied petroleum gas, explosives and arsenic pentoxide which can cause serious damage/harm to people and/or the environment.

The COMAH Regulations treat risks to the environment as seriously as those to people

Regulation 4 – General Duty

Every operator shall take all measures necessary to:

Prevent major accidents

And limit their consequences to persons and the environment

Competent Authority

COMAH Regulations are enforced by a body called the COMAH Competent Authority (CA), this brings together three separate government bodies, consisting of:

- ❖ England & Wales:
 - HSE
 - Environment Agency (EA)
- ❖ Scotland:
 - HSE
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Their role is:

Assessment and review of safety reports submitted by sites

Investigation of Major Accidents

On site inspection of how major hazard risks are managed

The Competent Authority levies charges against Site Operators to cover the cost of regulation

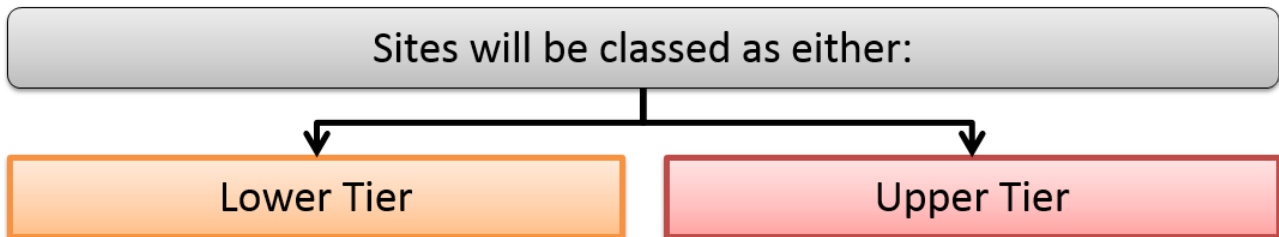
Site Responsibilities

The establishment (Site) needs to establish if the regulations apply and if so at what level – Application broadly falls under two elements based on the amount of hazardous substance stored as defined in the regulations.

Identify the category of your site

There are two thresholds for dangerous substances under COMAH. These thresholds vary for different substances.

If you store or use more than the lower threshold for a dangerous substance your site is classed as a lower tier site. If you store or use more than the higher threshold your site is a upper tier site.

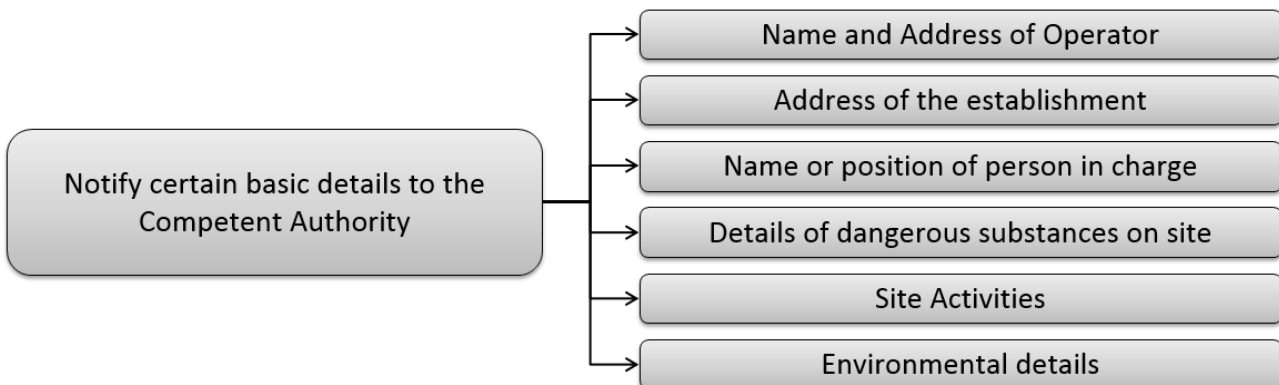


Dangerous substances covered by the COMAH Regulations including:

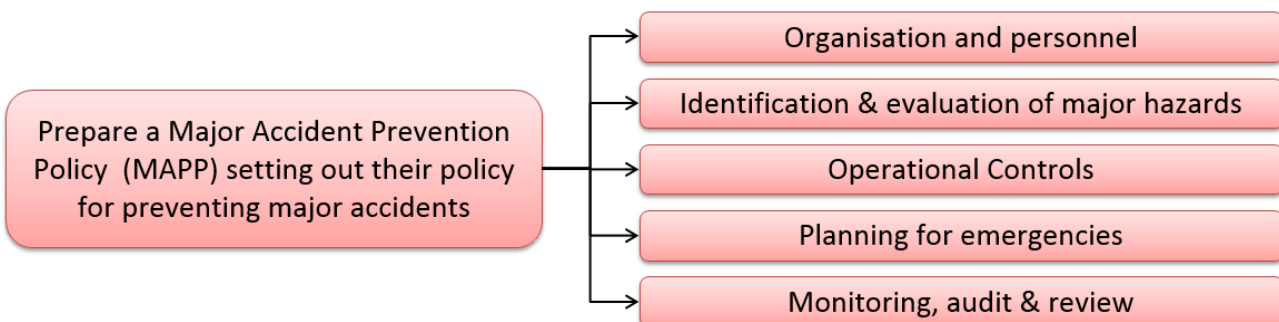
- ❖ Ammonium nitrate,
- ❖ Hydrogen
- ❖ Petroleum products.

A full list of dangerous substances and relevant threshold quantities can be found in Schedule 1 of the COMAH Regulations.

Lower Tier Operators – Key Requirements

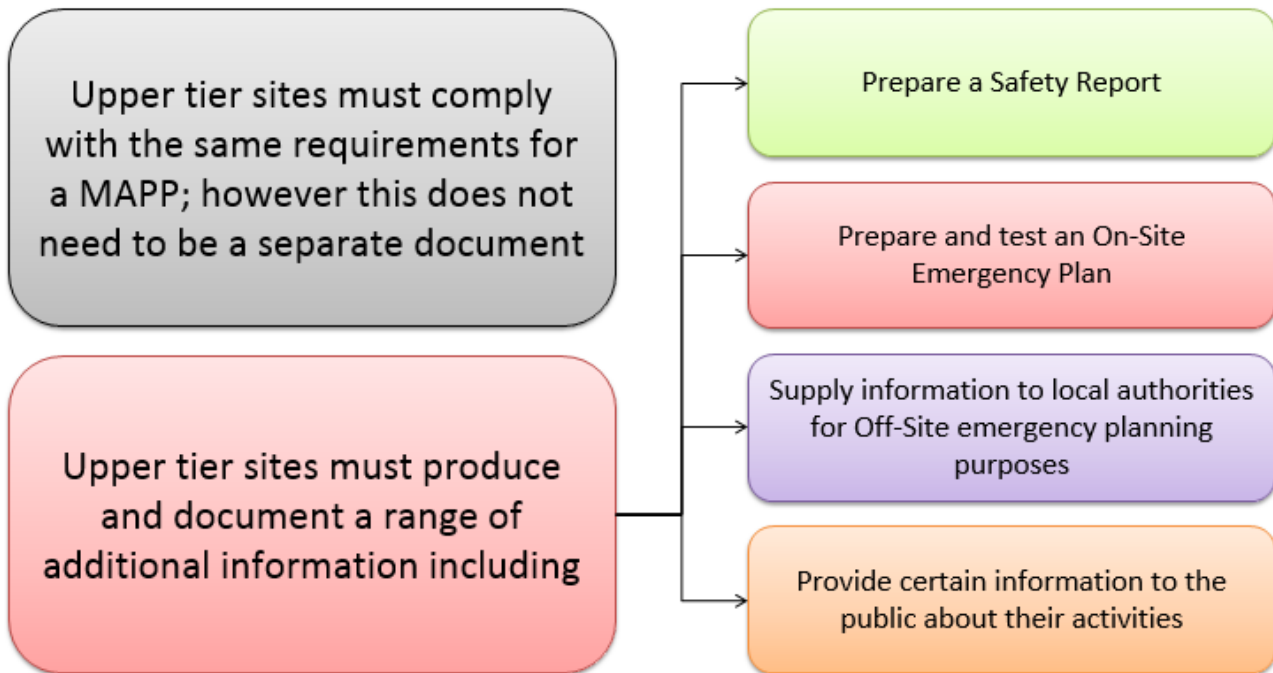


and



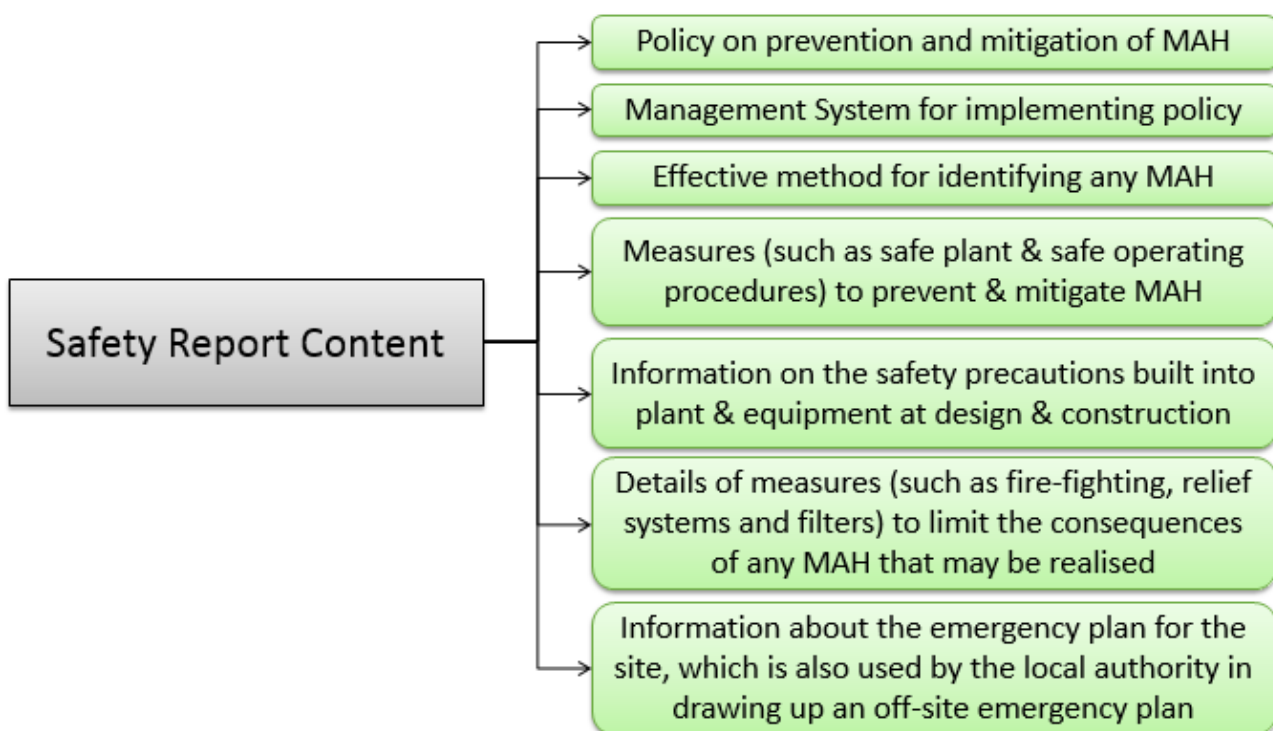
Upper Tier Sites – Key Requirements

For ‘upper tier’ COMAH sites, i.e. those with particularly high quantities of dangerous substances, operators must also describe their control measures to prevent major accidents in a ‘safety report’. High consequence, low frequency events must be specifically identified and addressed in the safety report. HSG 190 Provides guidance on preparing COMAH reports.



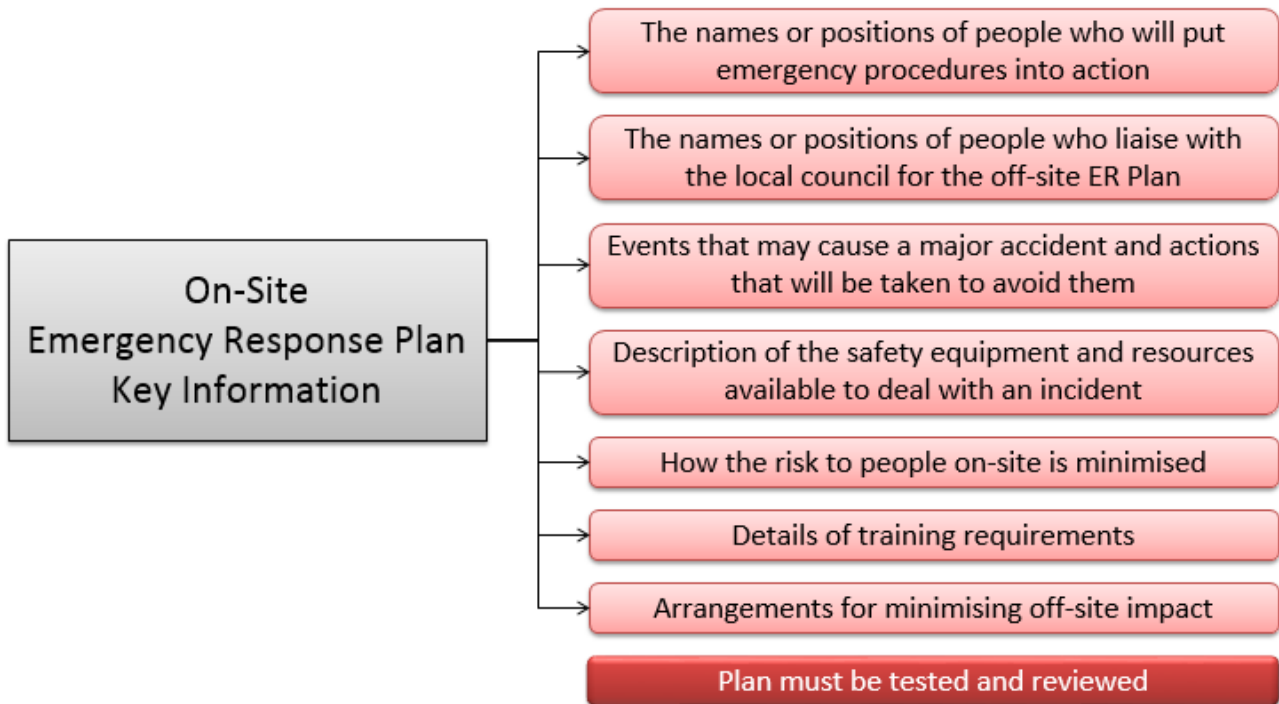
COMAH Safety Report

The Safety Report is a high level report that provides the Competent Authority with fundamental details of how the site Operator will Prevent and Mitigate the consequences of major accident hazards.



Onsite Emergency Response Plans

The onsite emergency plan must deal with the on-site consequences of a major accident and give details of what you will do in the event of an accident.



Offsite Emergency Response Plan

As well as the onsite plan sites are responsible for coordinating with the local authority to produce and test an offsite emergency response plan. This should also contain information on how the public will be informed of danger.

