

HSENI PROPOSALS FOR NEW COMAH REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2015 TO IMPLEMENT THE SEVESO III DIRECTIVE 2012/18/EU ON THE MAJOR-ACCIDENT HAZARDS INVOLVING DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND HSENI COMMENTS

This is a summary report of the outcome of the HSENI’s formal, statutory consultation on proposals for new COMAH Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to implement the Seveso III Directive 2012/18/EU on the Major-Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances.

The consultation document invited responses on proposals to replace and revoke the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 93).

The consultation document was published on the HSENI website and ran from 2 February 2015 to 30 March 2015. Letters were issued to approximately 500 consultees inviting comments on the proposals, costs relevant to Northern Ireland and the conclusion that the proposals would have no adverse effect on section 75 groups. During the consultation period a total of 8 formal replies were received.

Details of the consultees’ comments and HSENI’s response are set out in the table below:

Date Rec’d	Consultee	Comments	HSENI Response
04/02/2015	Transport NI	Nil response.	Acknowledged.
06/02/2015	PSNI	Raised concerns on certain requirements of the regulation on the provision of information to the public.	Requirement to release information permanently and electronically is a requirement of the Seveso III Directive and must be implemented. The IT platform that HSENI intends to use will consist of a system of fields containing lists of pre-determined information that operators will select from. This will ensure that only appropriate information is made available.
09/02/2015	Labour Relations Agency	No comment.	Acknowledged.
09/02/2015	NI Fire & Rescue	Grateful for receipt of CD and request a	A meeting was held with NIFRS representatives.

	Service (NIFRS)	meeting to discuss the issues.	Matters discussed included; 1. Possible liaison group for emergency services regarding COMAH off-site emergency plans (OSEPs); 2. Legal requirements for emergency responders to participate in OSEP tests; 3. Format for COMAH inspections; and 4. Advance notice of changes in COMAH site lists. NIFRS were content with HSENI replies and the continuing progress and engagement with any ongoing issues.
24/02/2015	Police Federation NI	No comment.	Acknowledged.
18/03/2015	Law Society of NI	No comment.	Acknowledged.
27/03/2015	BP	Concerned about possible differences between GB and NI with regard to releasing safety reports to members of the public and the arrangements to facilitate their release.	HSENI intends to use the GB IT platform to release information electronically. This will consist of a system of fields containing lists of pre-determined information that operators will select from. This will ensure that only appropriate information is made available and that there is a consistent approach across the UK.
30/03/2015	SE Health & Social Care Trust	No comment.	Acknowledged.