



Workshop Report

Preparedness and Response to
Marine Pollution involving Hazardous
and Noxious Substances (HNS)

Lisbon, 21-22 November 2007

Workshop Report of the 2nd EMSA Workshop on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)

Background

The European Maritime Safety Agency has recently developed its Action Plan for Hazardous and Noxious Substances Pollution Preparedness and Response (HNS Action Plan), which was adopted by the Agency's Administrative Board on 12th June 2007. In order to present and discuss the HNS Action Plan with the EU/EFTA Member States, EMSA organised its 2nd Workshop on "Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution Involving HNS", held on 21-22 November 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop had the following main objectives:

- To provide a platform for discussion and stimulate the exchange of views, knowledge and expertise among Member States and industry experts in the field of HNS marine pollution;
- To look at best practices and available tools and resources based on experiences from past incidents, as well as to identify areas of improvement in the current EU preparedness and response structures;
- To present and discuss with Member State experts the EMSA HNS Action Plan in order to define recommendations and follow-up actions for the Agency.

In addition to the European Member State experts, industry representatives, the US Coast Guard and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) attended the workshop (45 participants in total).

Workshop Programme

The workshop was hosted and chaired by the EMSA Unit for Pollution Response. According to the agenda the workshop included six sessions:

Session 1 – Risk assessment of seaborne HNS traffic,
Session 2 – Case studies,
Session 3 – Existing preparedness and response capacities,
Session 4 – Preparedness and response options,
Session 5 – Private preparedness and response resources,
Session 6 – Conclusions and ways forward.

- 1) The first session addressed the risk assessment of HNS transported by sea:
 - Alun Lewis' (independent consultant) presentation provided an overview of the HNS being transported by sea in bulk, concluding that

the majority of HNS transport is of liquid bulk (petrochemicals, intermediates and solvents) and that this type of transportation is increasing in EU waters;

- Beatrice Comby (EMSA) presented the methodologies used within EMSA for the statistical analysis of the transport of dangerous goods in European waters, and provided an overview of recent projects in this field (co-operation with Eurostat and study on metadata on ship movements). Ms Comby concluded that with the right type of data valuable statistical information on HNS transportation can be generated within EMSA;
- Francois Merlin (CEDRE) presented the main objectives, methods and tools for assessing the risk of HNS marine pollution and addressed the main aspects which should be covered when doing a risk assessment; the main gap currently is information on the fate and behaviour of HNS in the marine environment;
- Mark Meza (US Coast Guard) provided an overview of the risk assessment, prevention and preparedness procedures in place for HNS marine pollution in the US, as well as information on the various US Contingency Plans.

2) The second session covered case studies involving HNS:

- Franck Laruelle (ITOPF) presented the SAMHO BROTHER (chemical tanker), KEW BRIDGE (LPG tanker) and MSC NAPOLI (containership) incidents, focusing on the special challenges faced and the lessons learnt in each incident;
- Jason Bennett and Hendrik Land (ISU) presented an overview of the International Salvage Union, the salvors' role during the response to a marine pollution incident and covered the HORNESTRAND, SCHIEBORG and JOLLY ROBINO incidents; they concluded with presenting the priorities and challenges from the salvors' point of view when dealing with incidents involving HNS.

3) The third session covered the existing preparedness and response capacities in Europe and was dedicated to the presentations made by the participating EU/EFTA Member States and EU candidate countries on their national systems, available resources and structures in place for preparedness and response to HNS marine pollution. These presentations were based on a questionnaire provided by EMSA prior to the workshop as a guidance document.

These presentations highlighted the large existing differences in experience, available resources, and the level of preparedness to marine HNS pollution incidents across Europe and the challenges faced by many national administrations in this field.

4) The fourth session addressed preparedness and response options in the field of HNS marine pollution:

- Lito Xirotyri (EMSA) presented the EMSA HNS Action Plan, as well as the actions already undertaken and planned by EMSA in implementing this plan;
- Fanch Cabioch (CEDRE) addressed the role of practical guides to deal with HNS materials spilled at sea, covering the needs of the response

to such releases, the different stages of crisis management and the information requirements when responding to such spills;

- Alexander von Buxhoeveden (Swedish Coast Guard) provided an overview of the Coast Guard's role and the role of the fire and rescue services' teams on board a ship during the response to HNS spills, highlighting the need for regular training and exercises for these specialised teams;
- Horst Doelling (Germanischer Lloyd) addressed the issue of "safe platforms" for HNS response operations by comparing requirements and regulations for oil recovery vessels with chemical recovery vessels;
- Patricia Charlebois (IMO) presented the OPRC-HNS Protocol, which entered into force in June 2007, covering its requirements, definitions and implementation challenges; this is the main international framework document for developing HNS pollution preparedness and response capacities and facilitating the establishment of international co-operation when responding to major HNS pollution incidents;
- Mark Meza (US Coast Guard) provided an overview of the response structures within the US when dealing with HNS marine pollution, focusing on the incident command system, the integrated resource assessments, the authorities in charge during the response and the standardised response resource capabilities available in the US.

5) The fifth session addressed industry response resources:

- Filip Jonckheere (Cefic) described the role of the chemical industry during emergency response to chemical releases on land, covering the ICE-network, and provided an overview of the co-operation between Cefic and EMSA in establishing the M-ICE service (addressing the possible role of the chemical industry for chemical releases at sea);
- Nick Bailey (DV Howells) addressed the role of chemical response teams onsite a marine pollution incident involving HNS by presenting examples from real past incidents and stressing the importance of training for such teams;
- Jason Bennett and Hendrik Land (ISU) provided an overview of the private response resources, tools and assets available to the ISU for responding to incidents involving HNS releases, stressing the importance of experienced and well trained personnel.

6) In addition to the individual discussions conducted after the various presentations, the final session on ways forward provided the main forum for discussing the results from the previous sessions, exchanging views and ideas and covering a number of common themes, gaps and challenges:

- The definition of HNS varies in the different international legal instruments;
- The need for collecting accurate statistical data on HNS transported at sea and the importance of such data for risk assessment studies;
- The need to disseminate information on lessons learnt from past incidents;
- The use of trajectory and fate models;
- The large differences in experience and resources across the EU;
- The challenges of training, safety and access to specialised information;
- The use of fire fighters, chemical response personnel and experienced response teams and the role of the chemical and salvage industries.

Workshop Conclusions

As a result of the very interesting and long discussion of the final session, the following conclusions were reached:

- There is a need for accurate and updated **statistics** to enable better risk assessments;
- The format and information of existing HNS-related **databases** should be collected and reviewed;
- **Case studies** remain a valuable source of information and data on past incidents should be collected in a more structured way;
- The upcoming EMSA **inventory** will provide a better overview of existing preparedness and response capacities in the European Union;
- **Training** of HNS responders is essential and should be regularly addressed;
- "**M-ICE**" can provide useful product-specific information during an incident and should be established;

With the support of the Member States shall **EMSA** proceed with its proposed activities of the HNS Action Plan.

Possible Follow-Up Activities

EMSA within the framework of implementing the activities identified in its HNS Action Plan could:

- Develop an inventory of national policies and resources on HNS marine pollution preparedness and response. This inventory will be prepared by EMSA based on the information provided by the Member States in their presentations during this workshop and be sent to them for validation;
- In co-operation with IMO, host the pilot IMO training course on HNS marine pollution preparedness and response for the EU/EFTA Member States;
- Proceed with establishing the M-ICE service;
- Proceed in collecting statistical data for HNS transported in EU waters;
- With the co-operation of the Member States, start the collection and review of existing HNS databases, as well as the collection and dissemination of information on lessons learnt from past HNS incidents.

Attachments

- (1) Workshop Agenda
- (2) List of participants

All workshop-related documents and presentations are available on the EMSA website.

Attachment 1 – Workshop Agenda

**2nd Workshop on Preparedness and Response to
Marine Pollution involving
Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)****Lisbon, 21-22 November 2007****Agenda****DAY 1 (21 November)**

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration and coffee**
09:30 - 09:45 **Welcome address** (Mr Bernd Bluhm, EMSA)

Session 1 – Risk assessment of seaborne HNS traffic

09:45 – 10:10 **HNS transportation by sea** (Mr Alun Lewis, Independent
Consultant)
10:10 – 10:35 **HNS transported in EU waters - EMSA methodology** (Ms
Béatrice Comby, EMSA)
10:35 – 11:00 **Challenges in risk assessment of HNS marine pollution**
(Mr Francois Merlin, CEDRE)
11:00 – 11:25 **Coffee Break**
11:25 – 11:50 **HNS risk assessment and contingency planning in the
USA** (Mr Mark Meza, US Coast Guard)

Session 2 – Case studies

11:50 – 12:15 **Case studies** (Mr Franck Laruelle, ITOPF)
12:15 – 12:40 **Case studies** (Mr Jason Bennett & Mr Hendrik Land, ISU)
12:40 – 13:10 **Discussion**
13:15 **Lunch**

Session 3 – Existing preparedness & response capacities

14:30 – 16:00 **Current situation in EU Member States** (All participants,
5 min)
16:00 – 16:25 **Coffee Break**
16:25 – 17:30 **... Current situation in EU Member States** (All
participants, 5 min)
17:30 – 18:00 **Discussion**
20:00 **Dinner for workshop participants**

DAY 2 (22 November)**09:00 Coffee****Session 4 – Preparedness and response options****09:30 – 09:55 Practical guide to deal with HNS materials spilled at sea** (Mr Fanch Cabioch, CEDRE)**09:55 – 10:20 Organisation of HNS response personnel** (Mr Alexander von Buxhoeveden, Swedish Coast Guard)**10:20 – 10:45 “Safe platforms” for HNS response operations** (Mr Horst Dölling, Germanischer Lloyd)**10:45 – 11:10 OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000** (Ms Patricia Charlebois, IMO)**11:10 – 11:35 Coffee Break****11:35 – 12:00 HNS response in the USA – Latest developments** (Mr Mark Meza, US Coast Guard)**12:00 – 12:25 EMSA Activities – HNS Action Plan** (Ms Lito Xirotyri, EMSA)**12:25 – 12:55 Discussion****13:00 Lunch****Session 5 – Private preparedness and response resources****14:15 – 14:40 The role of the chemical industry: EU-wide network of chemical experts** (Mr Filip Jonckheere, CEFIC)**14:40 – 15:05 Private HNS response teams** (Mr Nick Bailey, DV Howells)**15:05 – 15:30 Private response resources** (Mr Jason Bennett & Mr Hendrik Land, ISU)**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break****Conclusions – The way forward****15:45 – 16:30 Discussion** (Chaired by Mr Walter Nordhausen, EMSA)**16:30 – 17:00 Conclusions & closing remarks** (Mr Bernd Bluhm, EMSA)**17:00 End of workshop**

Attachment 2 – List of Participants

Country	Title	First Name	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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