



Background

The Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990 (referred to as the NAMOS Regulations), require the person in control of any site or premises where a total quantity of 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances are used or stored, or are to become used or stored, to give written notification to both the Fire & Rescue Service and the Health and Safety Executive. This guidance document gives advice on the process for informing the Fire & Rescue Service only.

(Please note you will also need to notify the Health and Safety Executive).

The main requirements of the regulations

The Health and Safety Executive is the enforcing authority for notification of the storage of dangerous substances and once notified, the Fire & Rescue Authority is the enforcing authority for the marking of sites with warning signs. The Fire & Rescue Authority is also responsible for giving directions as to the quantity, type and location of signs.

A dangerous substance is any substance which is dangerous for conveyance within the meaning of the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging) Regulations 1993.

Access marking

All sites having present at any one time a quantity of 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances must display signs bearing the exclamation mark symbol, as defined by BS 5378 (as superseded by BS 5499 Part 5 2002), at such places as will give adequate warning to Firefighters before entering the site in an emergency.

Example of access sign:



The person in control of the site is required to notify the Fire & Rescue Authority that they store or use or are going to store or use 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances. This notification should include the following information:

- The name and address of the person making the notification.
- The full postal address of the site.
- A general description of the nature of the business carried on or intended to be carried on at the site.
- A list of the classifications of any dangerous substances which are, or are liable to be, present.
- The date on which it is anticipated that a total quantity of 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances will be present, or if they are already present, a statement to that effect.

All notifications should be sent to:

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Fire Protection
Oakroyd Hall
Birkenshaw
Bradford
BD11 2DY

Tel No. 0113 387 5780

Fax No. 0113 387 5777

Alternatively, the information can be forwarded via email to: fire.safety@westyorksfire.gov.uk

Upon receipt of a notification an Officer from the Fire Engineering, Planning & Licensing Team will make an appointment to visit and assess the site. Safety signs must be displayed as directed by the Inspecting Officer.

Location Markings

The inspecting officer may instruct the person in control of the site to also display safety signs at such locations within the site as he deems necessary. The intention of these signs is to give fire-fighters information of significant hazards within a site.

Example of Location Signs:



Changes

It is the responsibility of the person in control of the site to notify the Fire & Rescue Authority of any of the following changes:

- The cessation of the presence of dangerous substances at the site other than on a temporary basis.
- The permanent reduction of the total quantity of dangerous substances present at the site to below 25 tonnes.
- Any change in the list of classifications previously notified to the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982 (NIHHS)

On the 6 April 2013, the Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982 (NIHHS) and the Amendment Regulations 2002 will be revoked. This will reduce the duplication of different notification regimes for dangerous substances. The requirement in the NIHHS Regulations

for a person in control of a site to notify when the site holds 150 tonnes or more of 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' will be transferred to the NAMOS Regulations.

Within the Regulations 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' is defined as ammonium nitrate and mixtures containing ammonium nitrate, where the nitrogen content exceeds 15.75% of the mixture by weight.

The amendment to the Regulations will not require the marking of sites for 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures'. This is because this type of mixture does not require signage under the CDG Regulations 2009 on which the NAMOS Regulations are based.

With effect from 1 April 2013 the person in control of a site must notify the Fire & Rescue Authority if the site holds 150 tonnes or more of 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures'.

There will be a one month transitional period after the coming into force of the amending Regulations on 6 April 2013. From 7 May 2013, under the NAMOS Regulations all notifications for 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' will need to be sent to the appropriate Fire & Rescue Authority.