

# Competent Authority for the Control of Major Accident Hazards

## Purpose statement

the Competent Authority



The Competent Authority for the control of major accident hazards brings together three separate government bodies, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency (EA) in England and Wales, and HSE and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Scotland.

This statement defines our role in delivering a modern regulatory framework that seeks to **protect people and the environment from, and limiting the consequences of, major accidents occurring within establishments covered by the COMAH regulations.**

Our strategic aim is to enforce the regulations for the control of major accident and hazards, by delivering a safety regime that:

- ensures that those responsible for creating risks meet their responsibilities to manage them; and that suitable emergency arrangements are in place and work;
- assures people who live and work near a 'major hazard' site, that activities at the site take into account their safety and that of the surrounding environment;
- helps industry recognise that individual failures undermine the sector as a whole, and support them in conducting their activities safely.

**To deliver these aims** we will prioritise:

- safety management performance within establishments covered by the COMAH regulations;
- effective mitigation and emergency arrangements;
- leadership, competence and performance measurement;
- monitoring standards in existing and new, emerging technologies;
- regulatory performance across the Competent Authority.

Our **regulatory approach** will ensure:

- regulatory decisions are consistent and adopt similar approaches, for similar risks;
- regulatory priorities are clear and are delivered in a way that achieves the desired regulatory outcomes;
- policies and methodologies are transparent and take account of our experience;
- regulatory programmes and procedures are open and transparent;
- effective public reporting on industry's safety management performance;
- continued development of our partnerships with industry and other regulators;
- transparency in public reporting of the Competent Authority's performance.

For more information about the Competent Authority for the control of major accident hazard visit, The Health and Safety Executive website at: [www.hse.gov.uk/comah](http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah), The Environment Agency (for England and Wales) website at: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) or The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency website at: [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk).