



Risk assessment of a Seveso establishment with the IRAM web app

Chemical plant producing fertilizers

The “Crop Nutria” Company is producing ammonia nitrate and other chemicals for plant nutrition. You have a good knowledge of the facility and calculated from the amount of dangerous chemicals in use that it is a Seveso establishment. All in all the amount of dangerous substances is more than tenfold of the threshold value for upper tier installations.

As “Crop Nutria” is an establishment with only three safety relevant installations the facility is kept under surveillance by inspection walks of trained staff. Nevertheless, three years ago there was an explosion in the ammonia nitrate installation that caused no dead but 10 workers had to be brought to the nearby hospital that is luckily only 300 m away from the facility. Unfortunately there are no trained fire men on the facility but the professional fire brigade from the municipality was able to stop the fire quickly. Because of the very good cooperation between the operator and the fire brigade there were no further injuries. Fortunately there are no other chemical installations in the neighbourhood that could have been affected by the explosion and fire or could cause danger to “Crop Nutria” on the other hand.

As you examined the accident on site you noticed that the facility is not certified under EMAS and that not all relevant documents needed for major accident prevention and control were available but you only discovered one relevant breach of the operator obligations. Besides the remediation of the adverse effects from the accident you agreed with the operator to produce the missing documents and to clear the case of non-compliance. As you heard after some time that nothing had happened you sent a warning letter to put some pressure on the operator. After that the operator met his obligations.