

REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
(REMPEC)



IMO-OMI

CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION
D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE
(REMPEC)



UNEP-PNUE

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE



COMMUNICATION EXERCISE
(SOPHISTICATED TEST)
BETWEEN EGYPT, REMPEC and THE UK ICE Centre
CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S
RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMME (ICE)

REPORT

OCTOBER 2008

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN REMPEC AND UK ICE CENTRE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMME (ICE)

INTRODUCTION

1. Under the "Responsible Care Initiative", the European chemical industry launched a co-operative programme called the "International Chemical Environment (ICE)". Since November 1991, the programme has become an official activity of CEFIC and one of the areas of focus is emergency response, which is aimed at minimizing the consequences of transport incidents involving chemicals.
2. For the most part, implementation of emergency response is done through a National ICE Scheme which provides competent advice and assistance to the competent emergency authorities throughout a country by:
 - making use of the emergency response schemes from individual chemical companies;
 - building upon existing local, regional and product related emergency response schemes ;
 - co-operating with national Authorities through the National Chemical Industry Federation;
 - communicating and exchanging information with other National ICE Schemes operating in other countries;
 - promoting mutual assistance with the chemical industry.
3. A National Scheme is based on a register of participating companies, which voluntarily commit themselves to provide assistance when requested by the authorities. Within each scheme is a National ICE Centre, which maintains 24-hr/day cover, keeps a register of contacts and has access to relevant chemical data.
4. Regular exercises are carried out to test the level of preparedness of the National ICE Centres to provide information.
5. REMPEC has become a participant of the ICE Emergency response network and REMPEC's role is to facilitate contact between the ICE Emergency Centres and Mediterranean countries by acting as a filter mechanism whereby requests for information from both sides are channelled through REMPEC.
6. NCEC manages the "Responsible Care Initiative" programme in UK. Under the respective UK National Scheme, "Chemsafe" was set-up, which is a voluntary initiative at national level to quickly and effectively support the planning of actions to be taken by the Public Authorities concerned. In fact the success of the operations is determined by the commitment to prevent and minimize damage to persons, the environment, and the property, through contacts and procedures established and tested on the basis of the experience already gained over four years of the operation of the system. REMPEC scheduled a sophisticated test between United Kingdom (UK) and the Centre. The Centre organized a workshop on HNS Contingency Planning in Egypt at the end of October 2008; therefore REMPEC invited the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA) to participate to this exercise prior to the

7. By using the standard ICE "Procedure for Handling ICE Calls" (**see Annex I**) and the standard format for requesting chemical data (Calls information sheet) (**see Annex II**), information **on Synacto 246** (a metal processing fluid additive made of synthetic sodium sulfonates) was requested. This chemical product was selected by REMPEC after consulting Mr. Bill Atkinson, Head of Emergency Response of the UK ICE centre, in order to make sure that this product is available in Egypt and could be involved in a real accident.
8. The results of the sophisticated test are summarised in **Annex III**. Based on these results it can be concluded that all the main prerequisites for the Procedures for Handling ICE Calls were satisfied during this exercise, with the exchange of information on chemical products and the provision of advice to reasonably be expected under real incident circumstances.

ANNEXE I

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ICE CALLS

Requester: Egypt

Liaison Centre: REMPEC

Provider: The UK ICE Centre contacted and providing the information

- 1) The requester telephones the Liaison Centre using the published 24-hour telephone number and introduces him/herself.
- 2) The requester asks the Liaison Centre to verify its fax number and informs him that a fax will be sent.
- 3) The requester faxes a copy of the ICE Emergency Call Information Sheet, filled in appropriately, to the Liaison Centre.
- 4) The requester should make sure that the fax has actually arrived. However the Liaison Centre may also telephone back to the requester immediately upon receipt of the fax, confirming they have received the fax and are dealing with the request.
- 5) The Liaison Centre contacts the provider to inform him of the accident and send a fax with the requested information. The Liaison Centre should make sure that the fax or e-mail has actually arrived. However the provider may also telephone back to the requester immediately upon receipt of the fax, confirming they have received the fax and are dealing with the request
- 6) The provider faxes to the Liaison Centre the appropriate information (If it takes longer than 15 minutes to find the information, the provider should inform the Liaison Centre by phone about this delay)
- 7) The Liaison Centre faxes to the requester the information given by the provider
- 6) The Liaison Centre should telephone the requester after a few minutes (approx.5 minutes) to see if the fax has been received and everything is clear.

- 7) Once the incident is over the Duty Officer should complete a report giving all details of information requested, information sent and timings. He should inform the Liaison Centre by phone that the exercise is over. The Liaison Centre will inform the provider about the end of the exercise.

ANNEXE II

ICE

EMERGENCY CALL INFORMATION SHEET

Test / Real (circle appropriate item)

Date:

Time:

Reference:

A. Information about caller, requesting information

Name:

Company/Organisation:

Country:

Telephone

Fax:

E-mail:

B. Information about transport accident

Product name:

Gas / Liquid / Solid (circle appropriate item)

Bulk / Packaged (circle appropriate item)

UN number (4 digits):

Manufacturing company:

Other:

C. Information requested (circle as many as necessary)

(numbers refer to sections of the safety data sheet)

2. Composition/ Information on ingredients

3. Hazards identification

4. First aid measures

5. Fire fighting measures

6. Accidental release measures

7. Handling and storage

8. Personal protection

9. Physical and chemical properties

10. Stability and reactivity

11. Toxicological information

12. Ecological information

13. Disposal considerations

Other

Language of reply

ANNEXE III
REPORT RESULT OF TEST

Country	Name of responder	Time of 1 st call	Time of sending fax (1)	Time of obtaining confirmation that fax has arrived	Time of receiving fax or email with requested info (2)	Time of closing test	Response time (2) – (1)	Usefulness of info (* to ****)	Comments
Egypt	Ahmed Sheta EEAA	1152	1240	1326	1415	1430	1 hour and 35 minutes	****	

Usefulness of information received (from * to ****)

* = no or wrong information

** = general information without details about requested information

*** = detailed information covering only partly requested information

**** = detailed information covering all requested information