

We have worked closely with the Emergency Services: Police, Fire and NHS/Ambulance and the Emergency Planning Unit at Clackmannanshire Council to co-ordinate our response to a major accident. We would ask you to co-operate with them and us should an incident occur to ensure your safety.

Householders and persons responsible for business and community premises must ensure that all occupants and visitors are familiar with the safety advice and the precautions they should take.

Remember the simple rule:

go in – tune in – stay in

Further Information

In summary, we simply want to make sure that you are well prepared and that you know what to do in the very unlikely event of a major accident. We are well aware that reading about 'emergency instructions' can raise concerns, but, as we have stressed, there is no need to be alarmed.

Further information is available in the Diageo Blackgrange/ Cambus Safety Report, details of which can be obtained from the HSE or SEPA. Alternatively, if you would like more information on the Off-Site and On-Site Emergency Plans, please contact Clackmannanshire Council Emergency Planning Unit (telephone 01259 452537) or Diageo Blackgrange respectively.

We hope this information is useful. Should you wish to discuss these instructions, or want further information from Diageo, please do not hesitate to contact the COMAH Co-ordinator at the address below:

Diageo Blackgrange
Blackgrange Bond
Blackgrange
Alloa FK10 2PH

Tel: 01259 722093



Harry Fox, General Manager
Diageo Central Sites

DIAGEO

Blackgrange

Safety Advice for the Community



Control of Major Accident
Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 1999

DIAGEO The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 1999

Dear Neighbour,

At Diageo Blackgrange we make safety our top priority. We will always strive to conduct our operations in a manner that ensures the safety of our employees, contractors and neighbours and the protection of the environment.

The reason for this leaflet is to provide you with information about the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (or COMAH for short). Our activities now come under this legislation which means we have to contact everyone within a designated area around our site known as the Public Information Zone, to explain what could happen in the unlikely event of a major accident.

Please be assured that we are doing nothing new in our operations - COMAH simply means we have to record and present information in a different way. Our process and storage activities remain the same, potential hazards have not increased and the likelihood of an accident is no greater than before.

Overall, we have an excellent health and safety record and we intend to keep it that way. Indeed, with the extra investment we have made as a result of the COMAH regulations, an incident is even less likely to happen.

Products and activities at the site

Diageo Blackgrange is a major whisky operation, where we warehouse and blend Scotch Whisky. Whisky/alcoholic beverages contain potable alcohol (chemically known as ethanol). Under the Regulations, ethanol is classed as a dangerous substance because it is flammable. Therefore, the Blackgrange site is subject to the COMAH Regulations because of the large volumes of spirit stored on site.



Assessments

The main hazards relating to ethanol are fire, explosion or environmental impact (from a spillage). An 'uncontrolled release' could result in a major accident, such as a large fire e.g. in a warehouse or a storage tank. Persons or property located within the public information zone around the site (set by the Health & Safety Executive), may be at risk from the heat generated from such a fire. However, this type of situation would take time to develop, and it is highly unlikely that any incident would quickly escalate.

As operators of the site, Diageo have submitted a Safety Report to the Health and Safety Executive and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, (jointly known as the "Competent Authority" for the purposes of the Regulations), containing details of all our systems in place to prevent a fire. This Safety Report has been assessed and accepted by SEPA and the HSE.

Controls in place

We have a range of control measures to prevent ignition, spillage and leaks. Our premises are fitted with systems including sophisticated heat detection and automatic alarms, all of which are tested regularly. Our warehouses and premises are designed to prevent escalation of any incident with the primary aim being to contain the effects and stop them from spreading. Safe operation and prevention is still our highest priority and we place particular emphasis on training and working according to safe procedures.

In preparing our Safety Report, the site has been in consultation with the HSE, SEPA, the Emergency Services and the Emergency Planning Unit of Clackmannanshire Council. We continue to work closely with these bodies and, in particular, with the Emergency Services, to build their knowledge of the layout and organisation of the site.

In the unlikely event of a major accident occurring, our own on-site emergency plan would be put into action. We have fire-fighting equipment and teams of trained personnel on site. Our staff can respond immediately and deal with problems until the Emergency Services arrive. Our Safety Report however, has shown that any incident is most likely to be contained within our site boundaries.

Emergency Instructions: What you should do in the event of a fire at our site

It is extremely unlikely that a fire would escalate to such an extent as to pose a risk (from radiant heat or smoke) to persons or property outwith our site. In this highly remote instance, we will sound a siren to warn members of the public at potential risk. The sirens will only be used when an incident has occurred on-site which may have potential consequences beyond the site boundaries. On hearing the siren you should go inside and follow the advice on the information card supplied with this leaflet. Information on the siren itself can also be found on the information card.

The sirens will be tested annually sometime between the hours of 10am and 5pm on the second Saturday in February. Advance notice of the siren tests will be given separately.

Detailed information has also been supplied to Clackmannanshire Council, to enable them to prepare an off-site emergency plan to deal with an incident outside our site boundary. This plan, together with our own on-site plan also contains details of measures to protect the local environment and minimise the effect of any major accident.