

BELGIUM

Wilfried Biesemans

Flemish Authority / Division Enforcement

Seveso inspector

Who implements Article 14(1) and (2)

	Competent authority (Please indicate which authority or authorities)	Operator	Both competent authority and operator	Other
Article 14, (1) (Annex V, Part 1)	<i>Joint implementation from BCC by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional Ministries of Environment</i> • <i>Federal Ministry of the Interior (National Crisis Center)</i> • <i>Federal Inspection Service Ministry of Labour</i> 			
Article 14 (1) (Annex V, Part 2)	<i>Joint implementation from BCC by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional Ministries of Environment</i> • <i>Federal Ministry of the Interior (National Crisis Center)</i> 			
Article 14 (2) Determining “persons likely to be affected”	<i>Federal Ministry of the Interior (National Crisis Center)</i>			
Article 14 (2) (Information for Upper tier sites)	<i>Regional Ministries of Environment</i>			

How are Article 14(1) and (2) implemented?

	Competent authority (Please indicate which authority or authorities)	Operator	Both competent authority and operator	Other
Article 14, (1) (Annex V, Part 1)	Website ‘seveso.be’ , managed by National Crisis Center			
Article 14 (1) (Annex V, Part 2)	Website ‘seveso.be’ , managed by National Crisis Center			
Article 14 (2) Determining “persons likely to be affected”	Periodic “Seveso information campaigns” (videoclips, poster campaigns, information brochures, Seveso risk information truck) Be-Alert, Risk-info			
Article 14 (2) (Information for Upper tier sites)	Safety reports, including the inventory of dangerous substances, are made available to the public upon request (one –stop shop)			

Evaluating implementation

Authority - Please briefly describe any rules or guidance followed **by authorities** in implementing their duties

- *Agreements on the information to be provided on the website seveso.be and the most appropriate way to do this, are made within the BCC (Belgian Cooperation Committee), in which the different federal and regional competent authorities that have been identified as a source owner for information are represented. The BCC gathers four times a year.*
- *The different authorities have their own guidance for evaluating their part of the safety report (internal safety, external safety, external emergency planning)*

Operator - How does the authority evaluate that the implementation **by the operator** is effective the requirement, (e.g., criteria, minimum information, frequency, methods)?

- *In BE, the Seveso Directive has been transposed in the Cooperation Agreement for the Prevention of Major Accidents. In this Cooperation Agreement, the obligation to actively provide information to the public about the Seveso establishments has been assigned to the authorities. The operator is not involved.*

Evaluating implementation

Confidentiality - How do we deal with the requests for confidentiality? What information do we consider as confidential? Are there any criteria developed for declaring information as confidential?

- *In BE, since 2020 safety reports are split into a public part and a non-public part. This distinction was introduced to limit the dissemination of potentially sensitive information (related to public safety/security). The information in the non-public part is not accessible to the general public. The balancing of the public access to information versus public safety is primarily the responsibility of the government.*
- *Concerning the protection of commercial or industrial information, Seveso establishments have the possibility to request that certain information in the safety report is not made public. It concerns data such as the name of a used catalyst, the exact temperatures, details of a process, ...*
- *Criteria are described in federal and regional publicity rules for environmental information, but are rather general.*

If you have any specific examples of a good practice, please explain it briefly here.

Guidance and tools

If you have any guidance online, please provide the links here.

- [Leidraad VR \(v3.0 - 01/07/2020\) \(756.04 KB\)](#)
- [Leidraad SWA-VR - nota interne veiligheid \(FOD WASO, v2.0 - juni 2020\) \(966.44 KB\)](#)
- [Leidraad SWA-VR - gids noodplanning \(NCCN, v2 - juni 2020\) \(666.36 KB\)](#)

(Alternatively, documents (e.g., .pdfs) can be shared via the MAHB Minerva Website)