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UNEP-PNUE

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

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

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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE

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COMMUNICATION EXERCISE  
(SOPHISTICATED TEST)  
BETWEEN REMPEC AND SET/PORTO MARGHERA, ITALY  
CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S  
RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMME (ICE)

## **JOINT REPORT**

*presented by*

REMPEC  
AND  
SET/PORTO MARGHERA, ITALY

**JUNE 2003**

## **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN REMPEC AND SET/ PORTO MARGHERA, ITALY 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. Federchimica (Italian Chemical Industry Federation) manages the "Responsible Care Initiative" programme in Italy. Under the respective Italian National Scheme, "SET" 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.

7. At the last CEFIC/ICE Integrating Group Meeting (Ludwigshaven, Germany, 02 October 2002) it was agreed a Communication Exercise (sophisticated test) to be carried out in April - May 2003 between REMPEC and SET/Porto Marghera. In this regard, a report of the exercise has to be circulated to CEFIC Secretariat within one month of the effective date of the test , while the respective report the “requesting” Centre of the test (REMPEC in this case) should also include the comments from the “requested” Centre.
8. 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 benzene** was requested. This chemical product was selected by REMPEC in order to make sure that the requested information is likely to be made available to SET/ Porto Marghera when contacting a chemical company located in Italy. Indeed, benzene appears in the inventory of bulk chemicals traded in quantities greater than 90,000 tons in 11 Italian ports during 1999 (reference is made to Mediterranean Technical Working Group’s (MTWG) biennium report 2000/2002 for Italy – Doc. REMPEC/WG.21/5/ dated 10 February 2003, Fig. 1, page 8/15).
9. The results of the sophisticated test are summarised in **Annex III**. Based on these results it can be concluded that all the main perquisites 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.

## ANNEX I

### PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ICE CALLS

**Requester:** The ICE Centre requesting information

**Provider:** The ICE Centre contacted and providing the information

- 1) The requester telephones the provider using the published 24-hour telephone number and introduces him/herself as ICE Centre.
- 2) The requester asks the provider to verify the provider's fax number and informs him/her that a fax will be sent.
- 3) The requester faxes a copy of the ICE Emergency Call Information Sheet, filled in appropriately, to the provider.
- 4) The provider should telephone back to the requester immediately upon receipt of the fax, to say they have received the fax and are dealing with the request. The requester should telephone back to the provider if within 10 minutes of the first call, no message has been received from the provider.
- 5) The provider faxes the appropriate information; (If it takes longer than 15 minutes to find the information, the provider should inform the requester by phone about this delay).
- 6) The provider 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 provider by phone that the exercise is over.

**ANNEX II**

**TO:** OFFICER IN CHARGE SET/Enichem (Porto Marghera)  
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**FAX NO:** +39 (041) 931 983  
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**FROM:** Cdr. Elias Sampatakakis - Programme Officer (HNS), REMPEC  
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**FAX NO:** +356 21 33 99 51  
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**ICE  
EMERGENCY CALL INFORMATION SHEET**

Test  real  (tick appropriate item)

Date:      May 2003                      Time:  11.                          Reference  ES/      
-----

**Scenario:**

**A. Information about caller requesting information**

Name: Cdr. Elias Sampatakakis  
-----

Company/Organization: Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response  
-----  
Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, (REMPEC)  
-----

Country: Malta  
-----

Telephone: +356 21 3372 97                      Fax: +356 21 33 99 51  
-----

**B. Information about transport accident**

Product name: Benzene  
-----

Gas  Liquid  Solid  (tick appropriate item)  
Bulk  Packaged  (tick appropriate item)

U.N. number (4 digits): 1114  
-----

Manufacturing company: -----  
Other: -----  
-----  
-----

**C. Information requested (tick as many as necessary)  
(numbers refer to sections of safety data sheet)**

- |     |                                        |                                     |
|-----|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2.  | Composition/Information on ingredients | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.  | Hazards identification                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.  | First aid measures                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.  | Fire fighting measures                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6.  | Accidental release measures            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.  | Personnel protection                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.  | Physical and chemical properties       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9.  | Stability and reactivity               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. | Toxicological information              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. | Ecological information                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. | Disposal considerations                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Other:

**D. Language of reply: (although the usual language is English, other languages may be acceptable to the caller – circle as many as acceptable).**

GB  / D   
NL  / E  / S  / FIN  / F  / I  / P  / DK  / N   
Other: -----  
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## ANNEX III

### **Sophisticated Test report between REMPEC and the Italian National ICE Centre (SET/Porto Marghera)**

At the last ICE Integration group meeting it was decided that REMPEC and the Italian National ICE Centre (SET/Porto Marghera) should do a sophisticated test..

#### **Accomplishment of the test**

The test was due to be performed over April/May 2003.

The substance of choice was **benzene** and the information that was required was that mentioned in Part C of ICE Emergency Call Information Sheet.

The Italian ICE Centre was contacted during office hours without notice in advance.

Response time is counted from the moment the fax was sent by REMPEC until the reply fax with the requested information by SET/ENICHEM was received by REMPEC.

ICE Center Requester / Responder	Date and time for 1 <sup>st</sup> call	Comments on 1 <sup>st</sup> call	Actual time when information requested by fax was sent	Actual time when confirmation call was received	Actual Time when Info Sheet (CSDS) was received	Time for "check up call"	Response time	Comments
REMPEC/ SET (Italy)	30/5 10.03 am	Spoke with Mr Sergio Scancelli	10.06 am	10.09 am	10.21 (see note)	10.22	15 minutes	No confirmation call.
REMPEC/ SET (Italy)	30/5 10.03 am	Spoke with Mr Sergio Scancelli	10.22 am (see note)	10.23 am	10.47 (see note)	10.48	25 minutes (see note)	"The confirmation call" was rather a call to tell us he was just going to send the fax, and he asked us to call back to confirm when we had received it. That's why there is no time registered for the "check up call".

#### **Results**

The Italian ICE Centre has English speaking staff, with whom communications in English are easily understood. The actual response time was approximately 15 minutes, which is satisfactory, in terms of the ultimate goal to have a response within 30 minutes.

However, as it is explained in detail in the respective note herewith, there is a need the corresponding information to be kept up-dated, in order the latest CSDS available to be sent always.

During the check up call, It was also confirmed that the actual number of pages contained in the first Info Sheet (CSDS) were 13 instead of 16, mentioned erroneously in the cover page .The corresponding telephone and fax numbers on the “List of contact numbers of the current ICE Centres” were used during the test.

*Note: The first Info Sheet ( CSDS) , No.1/S/E ,which was received , have been issued in July 91 and revised in 1995. During the check-up call , the responder mentioned that in the meantime a 2002 revised Chemical Safety Data Sheet ( CSDS) was found and consequently it was also transmitted to the requester.*