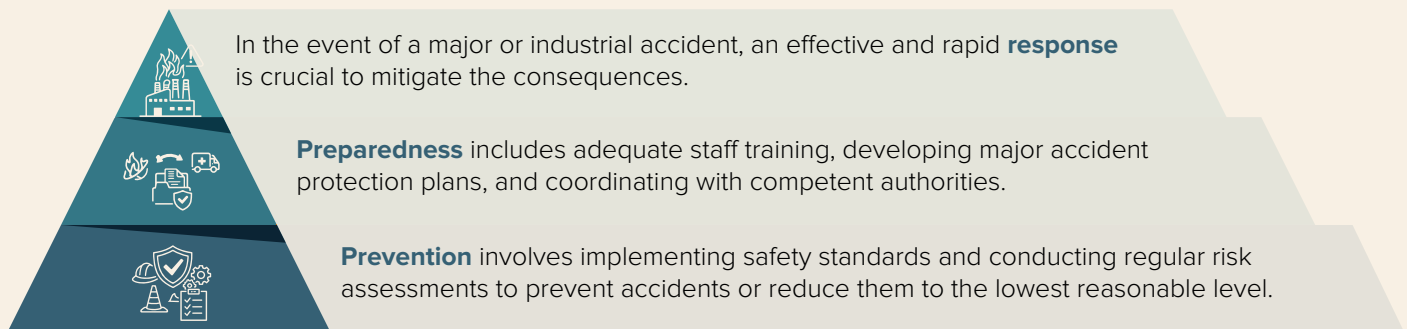


## Industrial Safety

**Industrial safety** is a multidisciplinary approach to managing risks associated with the use, storage, or production of hazardous substances in industrial processes. Its primary objective is to prevent major accidents, such as fires, explosions, or chemical spills, and to mitigate their consequences for human health, the environment, and property should such accidents occur. The industrial safety system relies on technical measures, organisational procedures, operator training, and a robust legislative framework. A comprehensive approach includes **accident prevention, preparedness, and response**, aiming to minimise the consequences of accidents in industrial installations, including cross-border effects.

The principles of industrial safety follow a hierarchical approach, with prevention as the primary level, followed by emergency preparedness and response if an accident occurs. Most risk is eliminated during the prevention phase, while preparedness and response aim to minimise consequences in the event of an undesired incident.




The **European legislative framework** is defined by the **Seveso III Directive (Directive 2012/18/EU)**, which sets out rules for identifying Seveso establishments, the obligations of operators, the responsibilities of competent authorities, and raising public awareness. Competent authorities involved in these processes address the prevention of major industrial accidents, emergency situations, land-use planning, and inspections. The Seveso III Directive applies to approximately 12,000 industrial installations in the EU, mainly in the chemical and petrochemical sectors, fuel storage, and metal processing. Major industrial accidents may cause fatalities and injuries, air pollution, contamination of watercourses or soil, and impact on neighbouring countries. Therefore, international obligations, most notably the **UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**, require states to provide mutual notification, coordinate plans, and offer assistance when there is a risk of transboundary impact.


The **legislative framework for industrial safety in Serbia** is based on the EU Seveso III Directive. The foundation of the system is the **Law on the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances**, which sets out the criteria for identifying Seveso establishments, operator obligations, inspection procedures, and the requirement to conduct land-use planning in accordance with risks related to the proximity of Seveso establishments. This law and its implementing bylaws link several sectors – environmental protection, emergency management, chemicals management, fire protection, construction, and urban planning – thus integrating industrial safety into the broader system of safety and risk management. Serbia has **ratified the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**, as well as other related conventions that establish bilateral cross-border cooperation and communication with neighbouring countries.

**Harmonisation with European regulations ensures that safety standards in Serbia provide a high level of protection for people and the environment, while also enhancing industrial competitiveness.**


In practice, this involves prompt and transparent accident notification, information exchange on potential consequences, and coordinated planning of protection and rescue measures.




**The institutional framework** consists of national, provincial, and local self-government authorities responsible for industrial safety, which includes environmental protection, land-use planning and construction, disaster risk reduction, emergency management and response, chemicals and water management, mining and energy, public health, and occupational safety and health. Competent authorities include, among others, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Mining and Energy.



**A Seveso establishment** refers to the entire site controlled by an operator where dangerous substances are present in one or more installations, including shared or associated infrastructure or activities. Establishments are classified as **lower-tier or upper-tier**. Operators of both lower-tier and upper-tier Seveso establishments must prepare a Notification for each establishment, as well as a Major Accident Prevention Policy document and a Safety Management System. Additionally, operators of upper-tier Seveso establishments must prepare a Safety Report and an internal Major Accident Protection Plan (Emergency Plan), based on the identification and assessment of potential risks and the development of possible accident scenarios.



**A Seveso installation**, or simply an installation, is a technical unit within an establishment, either above or below ground, where dangerous substances are produced, used, stored, or handled. In Serbia, by industrial sector and activity, the most prevalent establishments are those involved in the production and storage of crude oil, petroleum products, and liquefied petroleum gas. Other sectors represented include the production of petrochemical products, the production and storage of fertilisers, the production of methanol and acetic acid, the manufacture of inorganic chemicals, the production and storage of explosives, metal production and processing, and the generation of thermal and electrical energy.



**The Register of Establishments in the Republic of Serbia** is the official database in which Seveso establishments are recorded. The Ministry of Environmental Protection maintains the Register of Establishments based on documentation under which operators have obtained a decision granting consent or a decision amending such consent, and the Register is updated on a regular basis. At present, a total of 116 Seveso establishments have been identified in the Republic of Serbia, of which 48 are upper-tier establishments and 68 are lower-tier establishments.