



FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

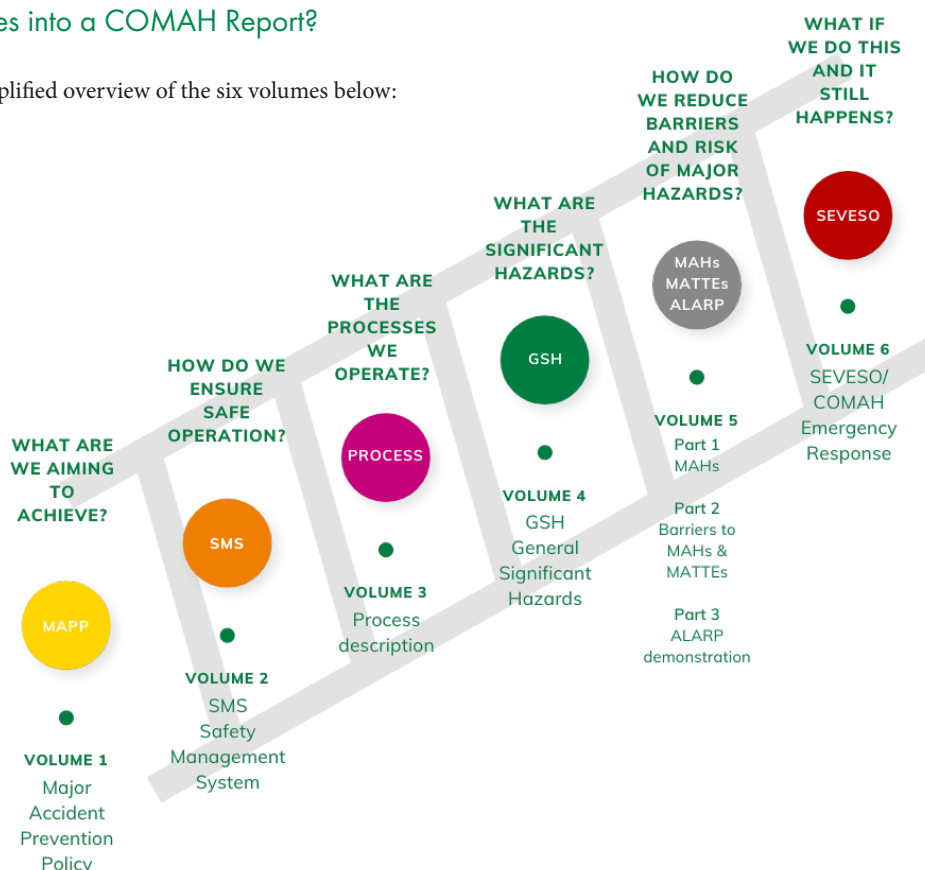
COMAH Report

We summarised frequently asked questions regarding COMAH reports to give you a deeper understanding and ensure safe operations as well as regulatory compliance.

If you want to learn more about our COMAH services, please contact us.

1. What goes into a COMAH Report?

Please see a simplified overview of the six volumes below:



2. What are the thresholds for COMAH upper tier and COMAH lower tier with regards to quantities of hazardous materials?

The limits are specified in the COMAH regulations themselves. They are always particular to the chemical. The regulations specify the upper tier and lower tier values in tonnes.

For example;

- Toluene diisocyanate 10 tonnes lower tier and 100 tonnes upper tier
- Oxygen 200 tonnes lower tier and 2,000 tonnes upper tier
- Carbonyl dichloride (phosgene) 0.3 tonnes lower tier and 0.75 tonnes upper tier

DSEAR chemicals are named in the COMAH regulations and quantities for lower tier and upper tier are specified in the regulations.

3. What exactly is required for a site classed as lower-tier COMAH?

In the IEC/ATEX scheme, hazardous materials are grouped into categories designated I, IIA, IIB, IIB + H2 and IIC. Methane belongs to category I. Category IIA includes gasoline, acetone, ammonia, benzene, butane, cyclopropane, ethanol, hexane, methanol, natural gas, naphta, propane or similarly hazardous gases. In category IIB ethyl, ether and ethylene or gases of an equivalent hazard are grouped. A separate category, IIB + H2, comprises hydrogen, fuel and combustible process gases containing more than 30% hydrogen by volume or similar gases such as butadiene, ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and acrolein. Acetylene belongs to category IIC.

4. A COMAH Report is a lot of work, what value does it hold aside compliance?

Flammability data on relevant substances must be obtained, which requires laboratory testing. For powders and dusts, this could include explosivity (dust deflagration constant (Kst)) and ignitibility (minimum ignition energy of a dust cloud (MIE), minimum ignition temperature of both a dust cloud and layer (MITc and MITl), minimum explosible concentration MEC)) tests, and conductivity properties. Where gases or liquids are concerned, important tests include limits of flammability, flashpoints (liquids), gas or vapour density, auto ignition temperature (AIT), minimum igniting current (MIC) and maximum experimental safe gap (MESG). Our experts conduct these tests in our own state-of-the-art laboratories, which streamlines and expedites our services. Building and equipment layouts, evaluations of ventilation and fuel transport systems, estimations of leakage or release probability and duration are examples of other types of information required for the HAC process.

5. A COMAH Report is now required to be a 'living document' what does this mean and what are the benefits?

A hazardous area electrical classification report is the culmination of the HAC process and should be prepared for every facility where flammable atmospheres may be created during normal and/or abnormal operating conditions. This documentation should be revised every three years or where substantive changes are made.

DEKRA Organisational & Process Safety

DEKRA Organisational and Process Safety are a behavioural change and process safety consultancy company. Working in collaboration with our clients, our approach is to assess the process safety and influence the safety culture with the aim of 'making a difference'.

In terms of behavioural change, we deliver the skills, methods, and motivation to change leadership attitudes, behaviours and decision-making among employees; supporting our clients in creating a culture of care and measurable sustainable improvement of safety outcomes is our goal.

The breadth and depth of expertise in process safety makes us globally recognised specialists and trusted advisors. We help our clients to understand and evaluate their risks, and work together to develop pragmatic solutions. Our value-adding and practical approach integrates specialist process safety management, engineering and testing. We seek to educate and grow client competence to provide sustainable performance improvement; partnering with our clients we combine technical expertise with a passion for life preservation, harm reduction and asset protection.

We are a service unit of DEKRA SE, a global leader in safety since 1925 with over 45,000 employees in 60 countries and 5 continents. As a part of the world's leading expert organisation DEKRA, we are the global partner for a safe world.

We have offices throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

For more information, visit www.dekra-uk.co.uk/en/dekra-organisational-and-process-safety/

To contact us: dekra-ops.uk@dekra.com

To contact us: +44 (0) 23 8076 0722

Would you like to get more information?

Contact Us