

MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARD AND HIGH POLLUTION POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL SITES

INDUS 6

Certain industrial activities are identified as having a high pollution potential or likely to lead to major accident hazards, the consequences of which could be harmful to the environment and/or health. These facilities, which are subject to very strict supervision, are subject to specific legislation that places particular emphasis on preventive measures and the publication of information to civil society.

Management of "Seveso" sites

Major accident hazard industrial sites (excluding nuclear sites) are identified and classified into two groups ("higher-tier" or "lower-tier") on the basis of the quantities and types of hazardous substances used or stored there. They are subject to the "Seveso III" Directive (2012/18/EU^[1]), which provides in particular for the introduction of a risk prevention policy and, for "higher-tier" establishments, the drafting of a safety report. In December 2016, Wallonia had 103 Seveso sites (51 "higher-tier" and 52 "lower-tier"). Most of the sites were located along the industrial Haine-Sambre-Meuse line, close to residential clusters (the agglomerations of Tournai, Mons, Charleroi and Liège).

Radiological surveillance of the territory

The risks associated with exposure to ionising radiation are covered by specific legislation. The main nuclear installations in Wallonia are the Tihange power station and the Institute for radioelements (*Institut national des radioéléments*) in Fleurus. They are monitored in particular (controls, inspections, incident reporting) by the Federal Agency of Nuclear Control (*Agence fédérale de contrôle nucléaire*), which is also in charge of the network for continuous measurement of ambient radioactivity levels. In Wallonia, no significant problems were identified in 2014^[2]. The main source of radioactivity is natural and related to soil composition.

Monitoring of sites with high pollution potential

In addition to legislation on industrial or nuclear risks, companies identified as potentially the most polluting (246 in 2015 in Wallonia, with a higher density along the Haine-Sambre-Meuse line) are subject to an annual report aimed at providing input to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)^[3]. The information provided concerns emissions and discharges of pollutants (91 listed substances including greenhouse gases, trace metals and pesticides) into the environment, as well as off-site transfers of waste and pollutants from waste water. Companies with a major potential environmental impact are also subject to the IED Directive^[4] which aims at integrated pollution prevention and control, in particular through the use of best available techniques.

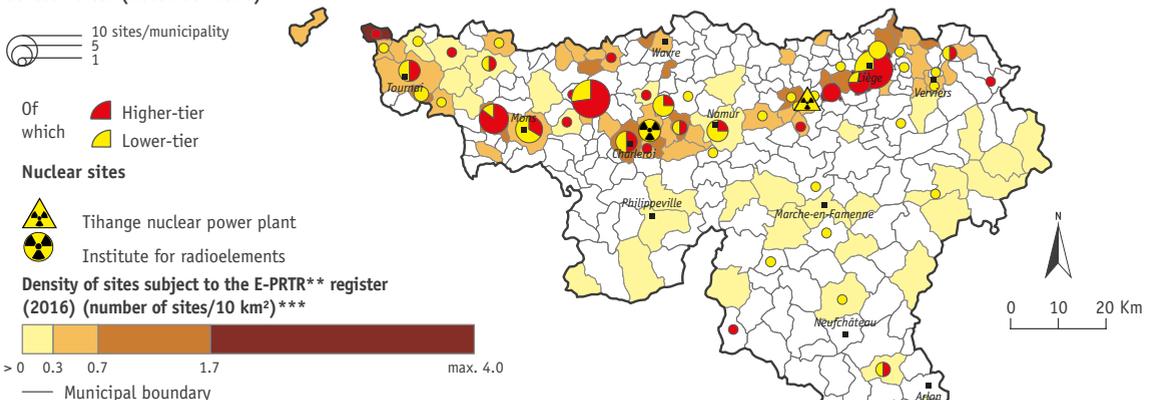
Access to environmental information

The Aarhus Convention^[5] and Directive 2003/4/EC aim to improve access to environmental information. The publication of information on Seveso^[6] sites, radioactivity readings from measuring stations^[7] and data from the E-PRTR^[8] register contribute to this objective. It helps create transparency^[9] and public awareness of environmental issues.

^[1] "Seveso III" directive in force since 01/06/2015 and following on from the "Seveso I" (82/501/EEC) and "Seveso II" (96/82/EC) directives | ^[2] AFCN, 2015 | ^[3] Regulation (EC) No 166/2006 | ^[4] Directive 2010/75/EU | ^[5] → INSTIT 1 | ^[6] environnement.wallonie.be/seveso. Gives access in particular to the Securival portal dedicated to Seveso sites | ^[7] telerad.fgov.be | ^[8] prtr.ec.europa.eu

Map 52 Major accident hazard and high pollution potential industrial sites

Seveso* Sites (December 2016)



* "Seveso III" Directive (2012/18/EU)

** Regulation (EC) No 166/2006. Notifying industrial companies (NACE codes 05-09; 10-33; 35; 36-39)

*** The density of sites subject to the E-PRTR is 1.6 for Senefelt, 1.7 for Herstal, 2.6 for Liège and 2.9 for Seraing.