

About our company

THOR SPECIALITIES (UK) LIMITED is part of the international THOR Group based in Wincham Cheshire. THOR is a private company, founded in 1959 and has manufacturing facilities in the UK, Germany, France, Spain, China & Mexico with other sales locations throughout the rest of the world.

THOR is a leading manufacturer of biocides, speciality chemicals and flame-retardant treatments.

Our Health & Safety, Quality and Environmental management systems are independently verified to internationally recognised standards.

Our facility is in Wincham, Cheshire. The site was built to the latest design specifications. We are totally committed to the safety of our employees, neighbours, visitors, contractors, customers and the environment by storing, using and transporting dangerous substances with the care and respect they deserve.

Because of the quantities of hazardous substances on site, THOR operates under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) and is jointly regulated by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency (EA), who form the Competent Authority for COMAH.

About COMAH

The Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) applies to over 1300 sites within the UK, and 33 in Cheshire. These regulations require us, as the site operator, to do these actions:

PREPARE A SAFETY REPORT

A comprehensive safety report has been produced describing how we operate. It assesses all situations that could lead to a major accident and the systems in place to prevent these events and mitigate the consequences. These reports must be approved by the Competent Authority for COMAH. The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for maintaining a public register of the information about our COMAH site.

PREPARE AN ON-SITE EMERGENCY PLAN

A detailed plan describes how the company will respond to a major accident at our COMAH site. This is sent for consultation to the Emergency Services, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Strategic Health Authority.

COOPERATE WITH THE PREPARATION OF AN OFF-SITE EMERGENCY PLAN

COMAH sites are required to cooperate with the local authorities and emergency services, so that an Off-Site Emergency Plan can be prepared by the Local Authority. These plans are regularly checked and exercises take place to demonstrate their effectiveness.

COMMUNICATIONS

COMAH sites are required to inform people living and working in the immediate vicinity about COMAH and what action to take in the very unlikely event of a major accident occurring. The HSE decides the public information zone around the site, which dictates with whom we must communicate.

Hazardous Substances on Site

THOR handles the following types of Hazardous Substances on site that require notification under COMAH due to the amounts stored.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

These are poisonous if inhaled, swallowed, or in some cases absorbed by skin contact in sufficient quantities. Certain substances have the potential to cause fatalities.

DANGEROUS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

If these substances were to enter a watercourse in sufficient quantities; they would kill fish, aquatic plants and animals.

In addition, THOR uses other hazardous substances during its operations including flammable, corrosive and oxidising substances with the potential to cause fires.

PLEASE KEEP THIS LEAFLET IN A SAFE PLACE

Potential for a Major Accident

Our safety report has identified the following scenarios that could affect people or the environment in the immediate area around our site.

- Fire
- Toxic Release
- Chemical releases to atmosphere
- Chemical releases to land/water

By preparing the site safety report and identifying these scenarios, Thor has specified and taken extensive steps to ensure the potential for these events has been minimised. We have the capabilities, along with the emergency services, to deal with these incidents. Together with Cheshire West and Chester Council and the emergency services, an Off-Site Emergency Plan has been developed and is regularly tested.

This plan would be activated if an incident on site has the potential to affect people or the environment off-site. Regular training and exercises ensure that staff have the necessary skills and confidence to deal with such incidents in conjunction with the emergency services.



- **GO IN**
- **STAY IN**
- **TUNE IN**

Emergency Plans

In the very unlikely event of an emergency, we have well established procedures for dealing with it effectively.

Our emergency response team provides cover 24 hours a day throughout the year. These personnel evaluate any incident and will take immediate action to deal with it, including working with the emergency services to resolve the situation.

ON SITE EMERGENCY ALARMS

We have two different alarm systems on site to alert employees of potential emergency situations and activate our emergency response procedures.

A continuous note warns of potential fire situations and a pulsed note alarm warns of a potential gas release on site. We test the fire alarms **every Thursday at 15.00** hours and at other times for practice purposes. These alarms are for our staff and may be heard by people working nearby, particularly under certain weather conditions: but it's entirely concerned with activities on site and can be ignored if you hear it off site.

COMAH PUBLIC WARNING SIREN

A high intensity siren will sound if any emergency on site could affect the local community. This siren is much louder than the alarms on site and can be heard over a wide area. If you hear this alarm for longer than a few seconds, follow the **Public Safety Instructions** given in this leaflet.

We test the siren on the **first Tuesday of every month at 14.00** hours.

Public Safety Instructions

These safety instructions have been prepared in conjunction with the Emergency Services, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Health and Safety Executive.

In the event of a major accident you should follow these instructions. Please ensure anybody who works with you at your premises are made aware of them

Public Safety Instructions

By following these instructions, you will be protected from the effects of smoke or toxic fumes.

IF AN EMERGENCY OCCURS

- You will hear a loud siren

GO TO A SAFE PLACE

- Go indoors immediately.
- Do offer shelter to others who may be on your premises.
- Do not go outside searching for anyone in the area, they will be given shelter elsewhere.
- Do not search for any pets outside.

MAKE THE PLACE SAFER

- Do **close** all the doors and windows
- Do turn off all gas appliances
- Do block incoming draughts
- Do **NOT** go into basements or cellars
(Some vapours may be heavier than air)

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Do switch on any radios and listen for announcements on
BBC Radio Merseyside 95.8 FM.
BBC Radio Stoke 94.6 FM.
Signal Radio 102.6 FM. Silk FM 106.9 FM.
Radio Northwich 92.5 MHz FM.
Radio Manchester 95.1 FM.
- Do not telephone Thor Specialities, the emergency services or TV & radio stations. Keep these lines free for emergency use only.

This leaflet is produced by THOR SPECIALITIES (UK) LIMITED as part of its communications obligations under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015. Further copies can be obtained from the Health, Safety and Environmental Manager who is responsible for its contents.

THOR

PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION



THOR SPECIALITIES (UK) LIMITED

Wincham Avenue

Wincham

Northwich

CHESHIRE

CW9 6GB

Phone: 01606 818800

E-mail: safety@thoruk.com

**PLEASE KEEP THIS LEAFLET
IN A SAFE PLACE**