



## Farm Health and Safety Update

### Ammonium Nitrate

On 6 April 2013, the Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982 (NIHHS) and the Amendment Regulations 2002 were changed.

The requirements for a person in control of a site with 150 tonnes or more of 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' to notify the relevant authorities is now transferred to the Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990 (NAMOS). This change aims to reduce the duplication of different notification regimes for dangerous substances.

It is a legal requirement under the NAMOS Regulations for operators to inform the Fire and Rescue Service and the Health and Safety Executive of any site with a total capacity of 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances.

You are also required to alert the Fire and Rescue Service (not HSE) if the site holds 150 tonnes or more of ammonium nitrate (AN) and mixtures containing AN where the nitrogen content exceeds 15.75% of the mixture by weight ("relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures").

The person in control of the site must anticipate the quantities of relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' that may be present at any one time.

The new requirement for 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' now incorporates materials that are not classed as 5.1 oxidising substances. If these materials are present on site in addition to the relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures, they will need to be incorporated in any calculations when deciding if notification is required.

The requirement to mark sites at the access points to warn of the presence, or possible presence, of 25 tonnes or more dangerous substances remains unchanged. There is no requirement to mark sites where only 'relevant ammonium nitrate mixtures' are present.

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This article is not intended to be a full summary of the law and advice should be sought on all issues.

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