Accensi Pty Ltd
Major Hazard Facility Community Information

Accensi Pty Ltd (Accensi) operate a manufacturing facility in the Narangba Industrial Estate which is a licensed Major Hazard Facility (MHF) under the Queensland *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

This Community Information has been prepared to provide the local community with information on Accensi and its operations, potential emergencies that could occur at the site, and actions that should be taken by members of the community in the event of a major incident.

If you require further details on anything contained within this document, please contact:

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What does Accensi do?

Accensi manufactures crop protection chemicals, mainly for agricultural use. The processes used are simple blending and mixing with a few mild acid-base reactions. The facility is classified as a Major Hazard Facility due to the flammable and toxic chemicals stored and handled.

Accensi employs 50 permanent staff in Narangba and 50 at other sites. The Narangba site can hire up to 20 casuals in peak season.

The site is designed to target zero emissions to the environment and is fully bunded with no uncontrolled discharges to ground or storm water. All activities are carried out within buildings and operations are scrubbed twice to eliminate odour release beyond the site boundary.

What is a Major Hazard Facility?

A Major Hazard Facility (or MHF) is a facility at which chemicals listed in Schedule 15 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* are present or likely to be present in a quantity that exceeds the threshold quantity in Schedule 15.

Accensi has the following Schedule 15 chemicals:

- Monoisopropylamine (MIPA) is a flammable liquid used in the manufacture of herbicides. If spilled this material will form flammable mixtures with air in a similar way to petrol. Accensi stores 100% MIPA in 200L drums, and as a 70% aqueous solution (70% MIPA, 30% water) in bulk tanks.
- Dimethylamine (DMA) is a flammable liquid used in the manufacture of herbicides. If spilled this material will form flammable mixtures with air in a similar way to petrol. Accensi stores DMA as a 60% aqueous solution (60% DMA, 40% water) in 200L drums.
- Other flammable liquids (eg hexanol) are also stored at the site.
- Organophosphate pesticides are used to control or repel insects from crops. They are toxic to humans.
- Bipyridyl herbicides are used to control weeds prior to planting crops. Some are toxic to humans.

What is a Major Incident?

A Major Incident at a Major Hazard Facility results from an uncontrolled event (including escape, spillage, leakage, implosion, explosion or fire) involving, or potentially involving the Schedule 15 chemicals described above, and that has the potential to expose a person to a serious risk to health or safety.

The following types of Major Incidents have been identified for the Accensi site:

- Operator exposure to acutely toxic chemicals during manufacturing requiring emergency medical treatment.
- Release of flammable liquids during manufacturing that could result in a fire.
- Release of flammable liquids from a tank or package that could result in a fire.
- Fire involving toxic chemicals that could result in the generation and dispersion of toxic combustion products.
- Natural gas release that could result in a fire.
- Gas cylinder release, fire or explosion.

There have been no Major Incidents at Accensi since operation commenced at the Narangba site in 1987.

What is a Safety Case?

A Safety Case is a document that must be submitted to the regulator (Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Department of Justice and Attorney-General) as part of the licence application for a Major Hazard Facility. The Safety Case includes details of:

- Hazard identification, risk assessment and risk controls.
- Emergency response plan.
- Safety management system.
- Security arrangements.

The Safety Case must demonstrate to the regulator that the control measures and safety management system implemented will control the risks of Major Incidents.

Emergency Response

Hazard identification and risk assessment completed as part of the Safety Case has shown that the majority of Major Incidents pose a serious risk only to people on the Accensi site, ie employees, contractors and visitors. Only two types of incidents have the potential for off-site impacts.

If drums of flammable liquid are dropped and their entire contents released instantaneously, there is potential for a flammable vapour cloud to extend beyond the site boundaries in very calm weather conditions. Modelling shows that this flammable vapour cloud lasts only a few minutes before it is diluted to a safe level with the surrounding air.

A major fire involving the storage of toxic materials can result in the release of toxic gases in the smoke plume. For a large fire, the heat of the fire causes the smoke and gases generated to rise high into the air, and any hazardous effects at ground level are negligible. However, in the early stages of a fire, the plume rise may not be as great and gases released may be dispersed closer to the ground. Modelling has been conducted to estimate the consequences of toxic gases released in a warehouse fire smoke plume. This modelling shows that at significant distances from the site the gases may be detectable due to odour or irritation (like the smoke odour and irritation from a large bushfire), but that exposure to serious risk is negligible.

In the unlikely event of a Major Incident at the Accensi site, the Accensi Emergency Response Plan will be activated. Accensi personnel all have a role to play in responding to an emergency, and Emergency Services will be contacted if any emergency is beyond the capabilities of Accensi personnel.

How you will be notified if you need to take action

If Emergency Services determine that members of the community need to take precautionary action to protect themselves, you will receive notification to **SHELTER-IN-PLACE**. The method of notification will be determined by Emergency Services and may include:

- Emergency Alert using the National Emergency Warning System (NEWS): A short message is broadcast to landlines and mobile phones, informing people of the incident and where to seek further information on what to do.
- Media broadcasters: ABC and commercial radio stations or SKY News TV, where regular programming will be interrupted to broadcast general advice and specific information to the public. Other electronic media can also carry information during special bulletins for major events.
- Door knocking by police and other emergency services, or loud-hailers on police or council vehicles could be used to notify residents of the need to shelter-in-place.

Action to take: Shelter in Place

- **Shelter:** Go inside immediately. Take all family members and pets with you. Avoid using your phones as Emergency Services may need to contact you.
- **Shut:** Close all external doors and windows. Seal gaps with blankets, towels or duct tape. Turn off heaters, air conditions and exhaust fans. Close fireplace dampers.
- **Listen:** Listen to a local radio station for further instructions and information. Once the “all clear” is given, open all doors and windows to ventilate the building.

WHAT TO DO

Shelter-in-place

- When the plume or smoke is passing over it is safer to stay indoors.
- After the plume or smoke has passed, it is safer to move outdoors.

Sheltering inside your home or a building in an emergency provides immediate protection from contaminated air outside. The fresh indoor air provides short term protection.

Over time some of the contaminated outdoor air will enter the building through small cracks, and eventually, after the plume or smoke has passed, the outdoor air may be cleaner than the indoor air. At this time it is safer to go outside.

Display this information in your home or place of work. Discuss emergency procedures with family, neighbours and colleagues.

Three steps to take in a chemical emergency or large fire: