

# MAR-ICE NETWORK



INFORMATION SERVICE FOR USE IN  
MARINE CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

# THE MAR-ICE NETWORK: AN INFO SERVICE

## Dealing with maritime incidents involving hazardous substances

Chemicals are often classified as **Hazardous and Noxious Substances** or **HNS**. They can comprise inorganic or organic chemical compounds, minerals etc. for use within or derived from the manufacturing, petrochemical, textile, pharmaceutical, food and agricultural industries. An ever-increasing amount of chemicals is transported by sea. These chemicals are carried either in specialised vessels in bulk, or in packaged form, often on ships carrying a variety of goods.

When dealing with an HNS pollution incident, one of the priority requirements is the identification of the hazard and an assessment of the risk posed by a stricken vessel and its cargo to public and responder safety, as well as to the environment and socioeconomic assets that a state or coastal community depend upon. The primary factors which determine the safety, environmental and socioeconomic impact of the released HNS material(s) relate to the chemical and physical properties of the material and its physical fate in the environment.

According to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) '**Action Plan for HNS Pollution Preparedness and Response**' adopted by the Agency's Administrative Board in 2007, EMSA is to establish a network of chemical experts who can support EU Member States in responding to marine pollution emergencies involving chemicals.

In implementing this task, EMSA, in close co-operation with the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre), has developed the **MAR-ICE Network** (Marine Intervention in Chemical Emergencies Network). This network of chemical experts will strengthen the information transfer regarding chemical substances involved in marine pollution emergencies in EU waters.

## How the MAR-ICE Network works



The MAR-ICE Network provides, upon request, remote (via telephone, fax or e-mail) product-specific information and advice on chemicals involved in marine pollution incidents. Responders to incidents simply contact, through a single interface (Cedre), experts from chemical companies which are knowledgeable about the substance(s) involved in the pollution incident. The MAR-ICE Network is based on Cefic's voluntary **ICE** (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) network which provides a similar type of assistance for land-based chemical spills.

## Who can contact the network?

All 27 EU Member States and the coastal EFTA States can request assistance from the MAR-ICE Network for marine pollution emergencies involving chemicals in EU waters, in accordance with the service's operational procedures.

## How can I contact the network?

All incoming requests to the MAR-ICE Network for marine pollution emergencies are channelled through **Cedre**, which acts as a single interface and first contact point to the network. Cedre is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via contact numbers disseminated to the national maritime administrations. Unless agreed differently, all communications when contacting the network (requests and replies) are made in English.

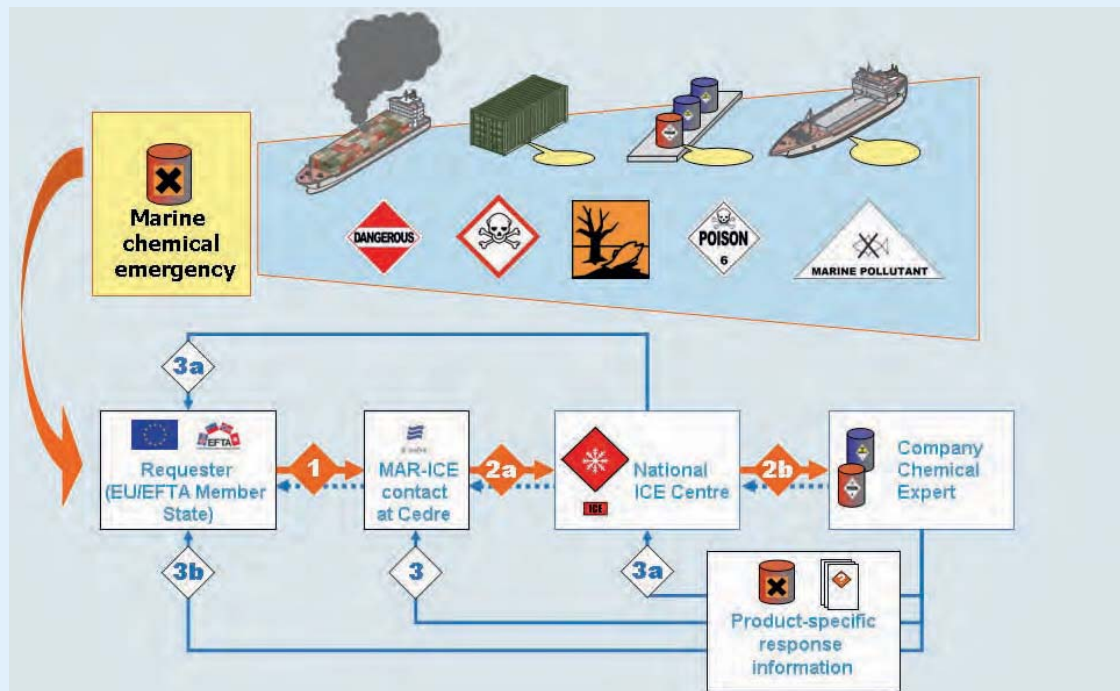
When contacting Cedre, responders follow a standard set of procedures. It is recommended, but not compulsory, that use is made of the MAR-ICE Contact Form when contacting the network.

Should the chemical be identified in the ICE database, product-specific information and advice will then be provided to the requesting party within one hour. Further, incident-specific information, if available, will be provided as soon as possible thereafter. Replies will be provided in writing (fax or e-mail) and the requesting party will be notified by phone of the transmission of the reply.

# FOR MARINE CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

## HOW MEMBER STATES ACTIVATE THE MAR-ICE NETWORK

Figure 1. MAR-ICE information flow.



### STEP ONE - INFO REQUEST

1. The maritime administration of EU/EFTA Member States, requests information (the 'MAR-ICE Requester') calls Cedre, on a dedicated phone number (see overleaf).

1a. Cedre confirms contact details.

1b. The Requester faxes, or e-mails a copy of the MAR-ICE Contact Form to Cedre.

1c. Cedre will call the Requester to confirm receipt of fax/e-mail (within 15 minutes) and that they are dealing with the request.

### STEP TWO - INFO COLLECTION

2. If appropriate, Cedre accesses the ICE database and contacts:

2a. the National ICE Centre

2b. the chemical company most knowledgeable about the substance involved.

### STEP THREE - INFO DELIVERY

3. Cedre faxes or e-mails response information to the Requester. In some cases, this information may be sent directly to the Requester by (3a) the National ICE Centre or (3b) the chemical company.

-- If the chemical can be identified in the ICE database, Cedre will respond within 1 hour (except in cases of force majeure) and provide response information (safety data on the substance concerned, etc.) to the Requester;

-- If available, additional incident-specific information - including information on the substance's behaviour in the marine environment, etc. - will be provided by Cedre to the Requester as soon as possible.

-- Cedre calls the Requester after approximately 15 minutes to verify that the fax or e-mail has been received.



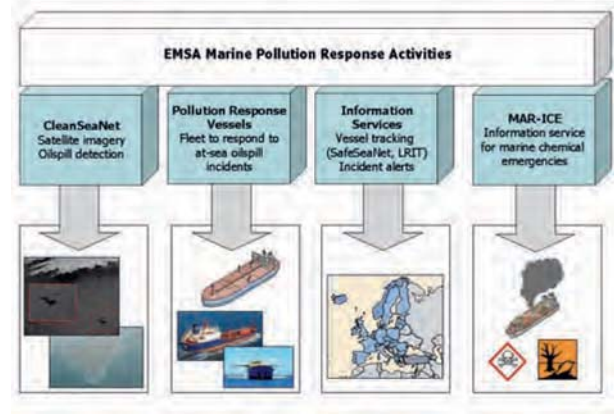
### STEP FOUR - POST-INCIDENT REPORTING

4. Once incident response is completed, Cedre prepares a report for EMSA on the information requested, the information sent, times of request and response.

**Future developments of the MAR-ICE Network**

The MAR-ICE network has been operational since January 2009. EMSA will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the MAR-ICE Network, the service's operational use and the assistance offered to requesting parties. After completion of its first year of operation, EMSA, in co-operation with Cefic and Cedre, will host annual meetings to discuss with the EU Member States, coastal EFTA States and the national ICE centres involved, issues related to the MAR-ICE Network and the service provided, as well as its future development. The Agency will also generate statistical data on HNS marine pollution in the EU, obtained through the MAR-ICE Network.

Figure 2. MAR-ICE in the context of EMSA's Maritime Support Services



**Important information**

This leaflet is accompanied by the photocopyable MAR-ICE information request form (photo, right). Use this form when making a request to the MAR-ICE network.

The form is also available on the EMSA website:

[www.emsa.europa.eu](http://www.emsa.europa.eu)



**Other information products available from EMSA**

- Agency general brochure
- Agency general video
- Pollution preparedness and response report (annual)
- Maritime accident review (annual)
- Oil Spill Response Services brochure
- Oil Spill Response Services video
- CleanSeaNet video
- SafeSeaNet video



**About EMSA**

The European Maritime Safety Agency is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Based in Lisbon, the Agency provides technical assistance to the European Commission in the development and implementation of EU legislation on maritime safety. It has also been given operational tasks in the field of oil pollution response, satellite monitoring and in the long-range identification and tracking of vessels.



[www.emsa.europa.eu](http://www.emsa.europa.eu)

MAR-ICE service provided in coordination with:

