



Defence
Safety Authority

DSA 03.OME Part 4: Defence Code of Practice (DCOP) 408

Domino Effects and Domino Groups



Version Record

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Preface

Requests for Change

1. Proposed changes, recommendations, or amendments to DOSR Regulations and Guidance can be submitted to the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team:

Email Address: dsa-dosr-prg@mod.gov.uk

Postal Address: Juniper #5004, Level 1, Wing 4, Abbey Wood North, Bristol, BS34 8QW

2. Any post and grammar change proposals can be approved or rejected by the DOSR without involvement of the associated Working Group.

3. Technical change proposals should be submitted to the associated Working Group for review and approval or rejection.

4. When incorporating changes, care is to be taken to maintain coherence across regulations.

5. Changes effecting Risk to Life will be published immediately. Other changes will be incorporated as part of routine reviews.

Review Process

6. The DOSR team will ensure OME Regulations remain fit for purpose by conducting regular reviews through the DOSR Governance Committees, consulting with MOD Stakeholders and other Defence Regulators as necessary on interfaces and where there may be overlaps of responsibility.

Further Advice and Feedback

7. For further information about any aspect of this document, or questions not answered within the subsequent sections, or to provide feedback on the content, contact the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team.

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Amendment Record

No	Section	Para	Amendment Summary	Agreed	Date
1.0	all	all	Document created.	Regs ATL	Jul 2021
1.1	all	all	Reformatted in line with DSA accessibility requirements.	Regs ATL	Aug 2024

DSA 02.OME Regulation 408

Domino Effects and Domino Groups

1. Every operator shall identify domino groups and the potential risks and consequential effects.
2. Every Operator shall consider domino groups and potential risks during the concept, design, build and commissioning of new facilities or the refurbishment of existing facilities that increase the capacity for the storage of dangerous substances and articles.

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Domino Effects and Domino Groups

3. As part of the Major Accident Risk Assessment process, the HOE must consider the possibility of another MACR or Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) establishment being sufficiently close as to be a domino establishment. A domino establishment is defined as one where the likelihood or consequences of an MA may be increased on one establishment because of the proximity and dangerous substances held on another.
4. To eliminate this possibility each HOE is to formally engage with the respective Local Authority (LA) (or Authorities, if multiple Authorities are involved) to identify potential domino establishments. The LA Emergency Planning Officer (EPO) provides the focus within the community for carrying out local authority civil protection responsibilities in close conjunction with the emergency services, local authority departments and industrial and commercial organizations. The LA EPO is therefore best placed to ascertain the possibility of a domino effect between MACR establishments and any others within the local area.
5. The LA EPO can advise if the establishment falls within the statutory Consultation Distance assigned to a COMAH 2015 establishment. HSE is a statutory consultee on all hazardous substances consent applications. Its role is to consider the hazards and risks which would be presented by the hazardous substance(s) to people in the vicinity. HSE will produce a map with three risk zones, representing defined levels of residual risk or harm to people which a hypothetical individual could be subject to. If consent is granted, this map defines the consultation distance within which HSE must be consulted over any relevant future planning applications.
6. The Consultation Distance under the COMAH legislation is usually the same as the Public Information Zone (PIZ) but may be different.
7. For explosives, the PIZ is calculated by using two times Inhabited Building Distance (see DSA03.OME Part 2 - Defence Code of Practice (DCOP) and

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DSA 03.OME DCOP 408a and 408b

Guidance Notes for In-Service and Operational Safety Management of OME for individual potential explosion sites (PES's).

8. For petroleum products 1000m from bulk fuel tanks (see DCOP 402). The PIZ is in effect, the hazardous footprint of the establishment.
9. If a potential interaction is confirmed, the MACR Assurance Team is to be advised of the potential domino effect. The MACR Assurance Team will then contact the National CA to ensure the domino effects register is updated.
10. The COMAH establishment is required to exchange information with the domino site in order that:
 - a. Proper account is taken of the nature and extent of the overall hazard in their MAPP or SR and On-Site Emergency Plans.
 - b. Co-operation with other establishments in connection with Off-Site Emergency Plans (UTE only) and provision of information to the public is complete and effective.
11. MOD has agreed with the National CA to co-operate with any adjacent COMAH establishments to comply fully.
12. When HOEs of MACR establishments receive information from a COMAH establishment, they are to:
 - a. Ensure they have taken all measures necessary to limit the consequences, for their own establishment, of accidents that occur on the COMAH establishment.
 - b. Evaluate and document on the MAPP/SR the likelihood of on-site escalation because of consequent incidents.