

Self-Help Checklist for the Storage and Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Fertiliser

(DO NOT RETURN TO HSE OFFICE BUT RETAIN FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS)

This self-help checklist is aimed at those storing or handling significant quantities of Ammonium Nitrate Fertiliser – especially those subject to the 2002 amendment to the Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982; i.e. greater than 150 tonnes.

Company: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Date: _____

Has the site Hazardous Substances Consent from the Local Authority for Ammonium Nitrate as required by the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992 as amended?: YES/NO

Maximum Quantity of Ammonium Nitrate based fertilisers likely to be stored during the year at any one time: _____ Tonnes

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. Is the building or floor constructed from combustible materials? e.g. wood, tarmac		
2. Is the floor in poor condition i.e. large cracks or holes?		
3. Are there any open or uncovered drains or channels in the floor? [i.e. could molten AN run into an underground drain / pipe]		
4. Is there evidence of 'significant' oil/diesel spillages on the floor? 'Significant' means there are a number of stained areas on the floor as opposed to a few isolated stained areas.		
5. Is the building used for the mixed storage of any of the incompatible substances listed below*? * urea/flammable liquids/chlorates/oil/grease/gas cylinders/acids/zinc or copper including their salts/nitrites/powdered metals/sulphur/alkalis/reducing agents/organic (carbonaceous) materials		
6. Is the building used for the mixed storage of combustible materials (such as stacks of pallets, packaging materials, straw, hay etc.)? If so, how are they separated from the ammonium nitrate?		

7. Where the ammonium nitrate is stored in bags/big bags, are the housekeeping standards 'poor'?		
'Poor' means there are several bags of ammonium nitrate which are spilled/split or there are piles of loose ammonium nitrate in one or several areas in the warehouse.		
8. For manufacturing, blending and bagging sites, is the ammonium nitrate stored as loose bulk?		
If so, are the prills/granules stuck together in lumps? [Note: they should be free flowing] Are there any signs of organic contamination?		
9. For manufacturing, blending and bagging sites, does the company carry out any oil/organic coating of the ammonium nitrate prills/granules?		
10. Are there any waste/off-spec material held in the store? Are there any signs of oil/organic contamination?		
11. Are there any sources of ignition in the building?		
This includes: Not having a 'no smoking policy' or 'hot work policy or permit' (for welding etc.) / open or broken electrical fittings; including open or broken lights or electric junction boxes/ vehicles or equipment other than as required for handling the ammonium nitrate		
12. Where the ammonium nitrate is stored outside, are there combustible materials stored in the vicinity (i.e. within 30 metres); such as stacks of pallets or packaging materials / storage of timber or wooden products / tyres or vehicles / gas cylinders		
13. Where the ammonium nitrate is stored outside, are there storage tanks in the vicinity (i.e. within 50 metres) used for extremely flammable/highly flammable/flammable/organic or carbonaceous liquids? e.g. diesel/fuel oil/other substances		
14. Are any bags of ammonium nitrate not labelled with an UN number or marked as 5.1 Oxidising Substance?		
Appropriate UN numbers are 1942, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, or 2072		

If you answer YES to any of the questions 1 to 14 in this checklist, then you should contact HSE to seek advice on improving the storage conditions. If your site has Hazardous Substances Consent as required by the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992, contact should be made with the Explosives Inspectorate of HSE (tel: 0151 951 4025, fax: 0151 951 3891). Otherwise you should contact your local HSE Office.

Both the specialist security police officers and HSE inspectors visiting your premises are likely to have this checklist with them when they visit, so it would be useful for you to have pre-considered or pre-completed a checklist and to have it available for viewing on site.