

Information of the public in accordance with § 8a of the Hazardous Incident Reporting Ordinance (Störfallverordnung)

From: June 2022

1. Company:

Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG
Josef-Suwelack-Str. 1
48727 Billerbeck

District Court Coesfeld HR A no. 1197

Personally liable partner:
Suwelack Beteiligungs- und Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH

Registered office: Billerbeck, District Court Coesfeld HR B no. 1069
Managing Director: Ronald Felber

2. Confirmation of the Application of the Hazardous Incident Reporting Ordinance (12th German Federal Immission Protection Ordinance – BlmschV):

The company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG uses substances on its premises which are subject to the Hazardous Incident Reporting Ordinance (12th Ordinance on the Implementation of the Federal Pollution Control Act, StörfallV). Due to the quantities of hazardous substances, the operation of the company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG is classified as an “operating area of the lower classes in accordance with §2 no. 1 StörfallVO”.

The company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG has submitted the data required for the hazardous substances and the associated plants in accordance with § 7 para. 1 StörfallV to the competent authority.

3. Explanation of the relevant activities in the company in accordance with the Hazardous Incident Reporting Ordinance:

The company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG is an expert for the gentle processing of foodstuffs. Its core competences are drying, fermentation and extraction. Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG processes coffee, sour dough, fine baked goods, dairy products and other foodstuffs into high-quality products. For this, unique expertise, developed over decades, is used. The company has been based in the town of Billerbeck in the region of Münster for over 130 years. Today, customers from all over the world are supplied from here. The manufacturing processes of Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG require the processual use of heat and cold. For this, 1 steam-boiler plant with 3 boilers and 1 ammonia refrigeration plant with 4 refrigerators are operated, which provide the production plants with the required temperature levels (e.g. low temperature of -60 °C). The steam-boiler plants and refrigeration plants mainly use natural gas. In order to exclude the risk of an operational interruption due to failure of the natural gas supply network, domestic fuel oil can be used as a substitute via a dual-fuel burner. For such an application, approx.. 80 t. are stored in appropriate storage tanks.

Approx. 54 t. of ammonia are used in the closed machine and piping system of the ammonia refrigeration plants. A portion of approx.. 7 t. is circulated as a refrigerant as

an ammonia solution with a 2%-portion of corrosion inhibitor (sodium dichromate). A total of approx. 2 t. of sodium dichromate are stored on the premises, incl. the quantities stored in a special approved hazardous substance container.

4. Relevant hazardous substances on the premises and their main hazardous characteristics

Ammonia:

Intended use – refrigerant in closed refrigeration system

Application – SU4 – manufacture of food

Product category – PC16 – heat transfer fluids

Process category – PROC1 – use in closed process, no likelihood of exposure

Environmental release category – ERC7 – industrial use of substances in closed systems

H221 – Flammable gas

H314 – Causes severe skin burns and eye damage

H331 – Toxic if inhaled

H400 – Very toxic to aquatic life

H411 – Toxic to aquatic organisms, with long-lasting effects

Sodium dichromate:

Intended use – corrosion inhibitor in 2% concentration in parts of the closed refrigeration system.

Application – SU4 – manufacture of food

Product category – PC16 – heat transfer fluids

Process category – PROC1 – use in closed process, no likelihood of exposure

Environmental release category – ERC7 – industrial use of substances in closed systems

H272 – May intensify fire

H301 – Toxic if swallowed

H312 – Harmful in contact with skin

H314 – Causes severe skin burns and eye damage

H317 – May cause an allergic skin reaction

H330 – Fatal if inhaled

H340 – May cause genetic defects

H350 – May cause cancer

H360 – May damage fertility or the unborn child

H372 – Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure

H410 – Very toxic to aquatic organisms, with long-lasting effects

Note: the properties of sodium dichromate described above are based on the substances in an undiluted state. Sodium dichromate is not used in the refrigeration system in this concentration.

Domestic fuel oil:

Intended use – fuel for industrial heating systems

Use in closed procedures, no likelihood of exposure

H226 – Flammable liquid and vapour

H332 – Harmful if inhaled

H315 – Causes skin irritation

H351 – Suspected of causing cancer

H304 – May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways

H373 – May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure

H411 – Toxic to aquatic organisms, with long-lasting effects

Incident scenarios due to the above-mentioned hazard properties:

Ammonia refrigeration systems have to meet especially high safety standards. The operation of an ammonia refrigeration system requires approval in accordance with the Federal Pollution Prevention Act (Bundesimmissionsschutzgesetz) and is subject to high safety requirements (use of high-grade substances with material verification documentation, monitoring for leaks in the system using gas alarm systems, precautionary measures - installation of drip trays in the buildings housing the refrigeration systems, installation of sprinkler systems in the buildings housing the refrigeration systems, and extraction units including air scrubber systems in the production facilities to bind or expel ammonia in the event of an accident) which are repeatedly checked.

The main risk of incidents on the premises of Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG consists in the release of an ammonia gas cloud through leakage of the refrigeration system. Unprotected exposure to the gas cloud leads to the dangers described due to the substance properties. The ammonia gas cloud spreads in the wind direction and is visible as a cloud of fog.

The release of fuel oil primarily leads to environmental damage. By storing the fuel oil in double-walled storage tanks which are repeatedly checked, the risk of release is very low. In case of fire, there is a risk of inhalation of fire gases.

Safety measures:

The company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG has described a detailed safety assessment for incident prevention in the form of an emergency concept. Suitable precautions have been taken in cooperation with experts and the competent authorities to avoid incidents and limit their impact as far as possible. Recurring emergency exercises, also in cooperation with the municipal fire brigade, as well as recurring training of the personnel increase the safety. In connection with the incident management, the company hazard and prevention plan provides clear procedures and rules of conduct for employees in the company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG.

5. Alerting the affected population, notes on conduct in case of an incident**Alerting:**

The company Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG has set up an incident management team which determines and implements the protective measures to be taken in the event of an incident.

Events that require the alerting of the neighbourhood or the public are reported to the control centre of the district court of Coesfeld.

The district control centre initiates the alerting through the use of police, fire brigade and other emergency services. It also informs the regional authority of Münster.

Notes on conduct:

In case of an incident, the greatest risk for neighbours and residents is through the spreading of a chemical cloud during an ammonia release or the spreading of fire gases. In both cases, the following conduct provides the best protection:

- Go into your home or a building immediately.
- On the way to a building, increase the distance to the company premises of Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG (Josef-Suwelack-Str. 1, 48727 Billerbeck) as fast as possible and taking the wind direction into account.
- Take children, helpless people and the elderly with you.

- Close all windows and doors, switch off all ventilation systems.
- Pay attention to loudspeaker announcements by the fire brigade and the police.
- Do not leave the building until the all-clear is given.

6. Further information

You will find incident-relevant information at www.suwelack.de.

Date of the last on-site inspection according to § 17 para. 2 StörfallV by the regional authority of Münster: 17.03.2022

More detailed information about the on-site inspection and the monitoring plan according to § 17 para. 1 StörfallV, as well as further information can be obtained from the Regional authority of Münster (Domplatz 1-3, 48143 Münster, Telephone: +49 (0)251 411-0, Fax: +49 (0)254 411-2525).