



## About Univar Limited

The Univar Widnes site opened in October 1979 and employs 70 people. It is located on the Hale Road Industrial Estate, an area of mixed industrial and warehousing in Ditton, Widnes in the borough of Halton.

The site has five main warehouses that are used for the storage of a range of both hazardous and non-hazardous packaged goods. External to the warehousing there is a tank farm with four bunded areas and there are other secure areas for the storage of specific materials.

In the UK the history of the founding company began with Ellis & Everard in 1848. The chemical business started in 1915 and grew in the late 1960s to eventually become the UK's largest chemical distributor by the late 1980s. Ellis & Everard was acquired by Vopak in 2000. In 2002, Vopak floated the chemical distribution business as a separate company and the Univar name was adopted worldwide.

Univar receives deliveries from all over the world and operates a distribution fleet with daily deliveries of up to 200 tonnes. The customer base is spread across many sectors including automotive industries, engineering, cleaning and detergents, agrochemicals, chemical manufacturing and personal care products.

Univar Ltd has an extensive Responsible Care® management system to ensure that Environment, Safety and Health are at the forefront of the business ethos.

Univar is a member of the European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC) and part of its independent safety audit process. This joint programme between chemical suppliers and distributors further demonstrates our commitment to the chemical industry's international Responsible Care® programme.

## Further information

Additional copies of this leaflet are available from Univar Limited on request to the Operations Manager on the site.

**The information in this leaflet is important – please keep or display it in a safe place and ensure that everyone at your address is aware of the Univar advice and information.**

## Sources of advice and information

If you need further information or would like to discuss anything contained in this leaflet in more detail please contact our Environment, Safety, Health, (EHS) and Quality Manager via the Widnes switchboard on 0151 422 6216.

For information on other aspects of COMAH Regulations, emergency planning, safety and environmental issues, you may wish to contact:

### Univar Limited, Widnes

Pickerings Road, Halebank Industrial Estate  
Ditton, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 8XW  
Telephone: 0151 422 6216  
[www.univar.co.uk](http://www.univar.co.uk)

### Halton Borough Council Risk & Emergency Planning Division

Municipal Building  
Kingsway, Widnes  
Cheshire WA8 7QF  
0303 333 4300 (in office hours)  
0303 000 4300 (out of hours)  
[www3.halton.gov.uk](http://www3.halton.gov.uk)

### Environment Agency North West Regional Office

PO Box 12  
Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road  
Latchford, Warrington  
Cheshire, WA4 1HT  
Tel: 08708 506506 (Mon-Fri 8am to 6pm)

### Health and Safety Executive Hazardous Installations Division

2.2 Redgrave Court, Merton Road  
Bootle L20 7HS  
Tel: 0151 951 3540



# Safety Information for our neighbours

## Univar Limited, Widnes

Pickerings Road, Halebank Industrial Estate  
Ditton, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 8XW  
Telephone: 0151 420 7616  
Contact: Operations Manager

This Univar Limited site receives, stores and distributes a range of chemicals to manufacturers across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

## The information in this leaflet is important – please keep or display it in a safe place and ensure that everyone at your address is aware of the Univar Limited advice and information.

The Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 1999 now apply to the Univar site, Halebank, Widnes. Univar's activities have not changed but some of the chemicals that we work with are now covered by additional Regulations.

Under the Regulations we:

- prepare a **SAFETY REPORT** covering our operations, the major hazards that could arise and how these are minimised and controlled. This Report has been assessed by the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) and the Environment Agency (EA);
- prepare **EMERGENCY PLANS** in collaboration with Halton Borough Council and the local emergency services. The emergency plans include details of the immediate off-site response to a major incident on our site;
- provide essential **SAFETY INFORMATION** for our neighbours, including local residents and nearby businesses.

This leaflet and the accompanying Emergency Advice card contain essential safety information and tell you what to do in the unlikely event of a major incident.

### What should you do in an emergency?

A useful phrase to remember with any chemical or solvent incident is



**Warning of danger** – Univar Limited will now operate a siren that can be heard off site. In the event of a major incident, three short blasts on this siren will be sounded periodically (every 15 minutes) until the all clear. Details of siren testing are on the Emergency Advice card.

**Go to a safe place** – go indoors. Do not leave your home or work to collect children or go outside. Local schools, nurseries, homes for the elderly and vulnerable and other community facilities will be prepared for this situation.

**Make the place safer** – close all doors and windows as well as any other ventilation. Switch off gas appliances, do not light matches and do not start engines. Move away from windows that face the Univar site.

**Further information** – do not call Univar, the emergency services or TV and radio stations, as these lines need to be kept free for emergency use.

**Tune into local radio** - BBC Radio Merseyside is on 95.8 FM and online and the details for other local radio stations are given on the card.

**All clear** – when any danger has passed, you will hear the all clear on the Univar site siren (a single long tone) and there will also be local radio all clear announcements.

### Our plans and partners

Univar Limited has plans in place for both on-site and off-site incidents. Our team works closely with the emergency services, local authority and other agencies to ensure that risks are minimised and controls are in place to deal with any incidents effectively and efficiently, with minimum impact on our neighbours and on the environment.

In the event of an incident, please cooperate with the emergency services and follow their specific instructions and advice.

### What hazardous material do we handle?

The business of Univar Limited is to store, handle and distribute chemicals to customers in the UK and Ireland.

The Halebank site has become a top tier COMAH site following the reclassification of two specific chemicals, sodium hypochlorite and sodium chlorite solutions, as dangerous to the environment and, in the case of sodium chlorite, as oxidising (how it reacts with the environment). For over 30 years, we have worked safely with both these chemicals, and others such as ammonia solution, hydrofluoric acid and perchloroethylene, and we understand the hazards involved and the safe working practices that are required.

### How could these materials affect people and the environment?

As part of our emergency plans, we have to identify all the potential scenarios that could create a major incident. There is no reactive chemistry on our site so any hazards are associated with transport, bulk storage and filling operations and relate to fire or uncontrolled releases or escapes of chemical liquid or vapour from tanks, drums or warehoused products.

The key scenarios identified in our full plans are:

- Failure of a chemical storage tank or container into a bunded area
- Failure of pipework or valves during discharging into yard areas
- Fire involving products in warehouses or outside
- Mixture of products in a stock tank

Other scenarios cover storage container ruptures and mechanical failure of valves or hoses.

### What do we do to prevent incidents?

We invest a huge amount of time, effort and money into preventing incidents of the kind described above. The Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency and our insurers assess all our procedures and equipment regularly and we are also audited by Lloyds Register to ensure that we are meeting Univar's international safety standards.

Our storage tanks are bunded (they have a catchment area around them) to collect and contain any releases and all our transfer and transport procedures are carefully monitored and controlled by our staff using the latest measurement technology.

Univar employees are trained and experienced in the work they undertake, our plant and equipment incorporates the latest relevant technology and our approved suppliers, contractors and hauliers meet the highest standards of training and safety awareness.

We were particularly proud to be named as the UK Institute of Transport Management's Chemical Distribution Company of the Year in 2007 and received the UK Chemical Business Association's Responsible Care Diamond Award in 2006 and the Distinguished Service Diamond Award in 2008.