



PO Box A38, Leeds Road  
Huddersfield, HD2 1FF

July 2013

## Dear Resident,

My name is Carl Sykes and I am the Community Relations Manager for Syngenta in Huddersfield. This may be the first time you have received a letter from Syngenta and the enclosed brochure will tell you more about our operations. We manufacture premium brand crop protection products.

Every year since 1985, we have written to nearby residents to provide information about Syngenta, what we manufacture and what residents should do if they ever hear our public warning sirens sounding. You may be aware that we test our sirens once per year and you may have heard them before.

We are now writing to more households than we have previously because we have received new guidance from the Health and Safety Executive and we have also installed a new siren system. This means that you will now receive a letter from Syngenta once per year.

The Health and Safety Executive, along with other regulators such as the Environment Agency, Kirklees Council and Yorkshire Water provide the regulatory framework within which companies like Syngenta operate. More information on this regulatory framework can be found inside this pack, along with a letter from Kirklees Council.

We plan to test our sirens in October this year and I shall write to you again with more information shortly before we do. However, as one of our nearby neighbours, I'd be interested to know if you would like to visit our site in Huddersfield to see our operations for yourself and meet some of our team. If this is of interest to you, please make contact using one of the methods described on the 'Contact Us' sheet enclosed.

If you have any further questions after reading the enclosed information, please get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Sykes".

Carl Sykes  
Community Relations Manager

Date: July 2013 Our Ref: 2013-JUL-COMAH Regs

If calling please ask for: Sean Westerby Tel: 01484 226414

The occupiers of premises in the vicinity of Syngenta Ltd, Leeds Road, Huddersfield

### **CONTROL OF MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS (COMAH) REGULATIONS 1999**

This letter is being sent to you along with information about Syngenta and its Public Information Zone.

Health and Safety Regulations require companies to supply all employers and householders resident within the public information zone of the safety measures to be taken in the event of a major accident at their premises in Huddersfield. Please ensure that all members of your household, or all your business employees, are made aware of the information when you receive it in October 2013.

Many occupiers will have received similar information in the past, however, for a few people, this will be the first occasion that you will have been notified.

The Council is committed to ensuring that employers and members of the public are informed about risks and more importantly what to do in the event of an emergency.

It should be noted that the Council views public safety issues very seriously and is liaising closely with chemical industries within the Leeds Road corridor of Huddersfield on measures at their plants to reduce off-site risks as far as possible. Safety at the chemical plants is already very high and has improved over the years. The consultation zones are based on regulations which take account of chemicals that have long been in use by the companies.

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact Syngenta in the first instance on 01484 537456, or myself on the number above.

Yours faithfully



Sean Westerby  
Corporate Safety and Resilience Team Manager

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# Answers to Questions you may have

## I have received a letter before, why is this different now?

We have written to many households who live nearby for many years and from 2013 our circulation is widening to include households and businesses who may not have received a letter from us previously.

## Why are you doing this now?

Companies like Syngenta are regulated under 'COMAH' which stands for Control of Major Accident Hazards. There are more than 330 registered COMAH Sites in the UK classed as "Top Tier" and all such COMAH sites are required to communicate to nearby residents on their community safety plans. The Health and Safety Executive have provided new guidance to Syngenta on the households which Syngenta should write to. If you have received a copy of this letter by post, this now includes your household.

## Why have the Health and Safety Executive issued new guidance?

The Health and Safety Executive provide guidance to operators based on sophisticated risk modelling, assessing inventory and production processes as well as other operational factors. Despite no changes to our inventory or production processes, the most recent risk modelling undertaken by the HSE means that new guidance has been given to Syngenta. Risk modelling undertaken by the HSE assumes a worst case scenario and considers air, land and water implications as well as potential impact on people. It is highly unlikely that an incident would affect people beyond the site boundary. This risk modelling is a precautionary measure to allow a preventative Community Safety Plan to be put in place.

## What will it mean to me?

In October, you will receive a letter advising you of our Community Safety Plan. It is important that when you receive it, you keep this letter somewhere safe and understand what you must do in the unlikely event of our public warning sirens sounding outside of the normal annual test.

## Is my household at greater risk?

There is no greater risk to you or your household than there was before you received a letter. This change has only been introduced as a result of new guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive and has not come about as a result of any changes to our manufacturing processes or inventory stored on site. The fact that you shall now receive a letter from us will ensure that you know what to do if our public warning sirens are sounding outside of the normal annual test.

## What is the legislation? I want to look it up

It has been recognised for many years that without proper controls in place, certain industrial activities involving hazardous substances have the potential to cause incidents. In 1999, the "Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations" (COMAH) were introduced in the UK with the aim of preventing major incidents involving hazardous substances and to limit the consequences to people and the environment in the unlikely event of such an incident. For more details visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/background/essentialinfo.pdf>

Under the COMAH Regulations, the Health and Safety Executive provide guidance to operators based on sophisticated risk modelling, assessing inventory and production processes as well as other operational factors. This risk modelling considers air, land and water implications of a worst case scenario incident, as well as potential impact on people.

Syngenta in Huddersfield has a very good safety record and it is highly unlikely that an incident would affect people beyond the site boundary. Risk modelling is a precautionary measure to allow a Community Safety Plan to be put in place. Industry is an important part of society which provides skilled employment, trade and economic growth in the areas where companies operate. Equally, Syngenta makes an important economic contribution to the Huddersfield area by way of apprenticeships, jobs and trade. The COMAH legislation provides a framework where businesses and communities can live safely side by side.

## What is regulated and Who does it?

The COMAH Regulations give detailed advice about the scope of, and the duties imposed by the legislation to COMAH regulated companies, the Emergency Services and the Local Authorities. A key feature of the COMAH Regulations is that they are enforced by a "Competent Authority", which in the UK comprises of the Health & Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

## How is it regulated?

COMAH sites are graded as either "Top Tier" or "Lower Tier" dependant on the quantities and types of substances they produce and/or store. Syngenta in Huddersfield is graded as a Top Tier site.

The COMAH Regulations require that a Top Tier site produces two plans:

- i. an On-site Emergency Plan, which is prepared by Syngenta, to specify the response to an emergency which may affect those who work on the site.
- ii. an Off-site Emergency Plan, which has to be prepared by the Local Authority which specifies the co-ordinated response of partner agencies to an emergency which has any off-site effects.

Kirklees Council and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service undertake this role in relation to Syngenta and other Top Tier operators in Kirklees.

## How does it affect me?

One of the important features of the COMAH Regulations is that there is a requirement upon the Operator of a Top Tier site to provide specified information to people nearby in the unlikely event of a major incident at that site. This information must include a description of potential hazards and the safety measures that are in place. It is the duty of the Competent Authority and Kirklees Council to determine the area around a COMAH site to which this information (in writing) must be made available. This area is known as the Public Information Zone (PI Zone).

## When will you be testing your sirens then?

We shall write again to you in October with more information about what to do if our sirens sounded. We are planning to test our sirens in October 2013.

## Ok, I understand what you're saying but I might still have questions, where can I go for further help?

If you still have questions, please feel free to contact one of the people below.

Syngenta: Carl Sykes on 01484 537456 or email: [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com)






Kirklees Emergency Planning: Sean Westerby on 01484 226414 or email: [emergency.planning@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@kirklees.gov.uk)

The Health and Safety Executive: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/background/essentialinfo.pdf>

# Contact Form

Please tell us if you would like to visit our site to see what we do and meet our team.  
Be sure to provide your contact details.

## You can contact us by any of the following methods;

-  **Phone:** 01484 537456, ask for Carl Sykes or Jane Denton
-  **Email:** [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com)
-  **Website:** [www.syngenta.co.uk/publicinformationzone](http://www.syngenta.co.uk/publicinformationzone)
-  **Facebook:** Syngenta Huddersfield Manufacturing Centre
-  **Twitter:** @CarlNSykes or #SynPIZone



## Post:

If you prefer, please complete the section below and post it to us in the enclosed pre-paid envelope

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would be interested in visiting the Syngenta Huddersfield site (tick)

Tick this box if you would like to receive future updates from Syngenta

# Need help translating this letter?

આ પત્રનું લખાણ સમજવામાં જો તમને મુશ્કેલી જણાતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) સરનામે ઈમેલ મોકલીને અથવા 01484 537456 નંબર પર ફોન કરીને અમને જણાવો. તમારે કઈ ભાષામાં એ લખાણ જોઈએ છે તે, તમારું નામ, તમારું પોષ્ટલ સરનામું અને સંપર્ક માટેનો ટેલિફોન નંબર અમને જણાવવાનું ભૂલશો નહીં.

Gujarati

如果您未能明白这封信的内容，请发送电邮至 [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) 或致电 01484 537456 来告诉我们。请确保您告知我们您所需要的语言、您的姓名、您的地址和一个联络电话号码。

Mandarin

Jeśli masz trudności ze zrozumieniem treści tego listu, proszę nam powiedzieć, wysyłając email na [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) lub telefonicznie 01484 537456. Pamiętaj, aby powiedzieć nam żądany język, nazwisko, adres pocztowy i numer telefonu kontaktowego.

Polish

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਚਿੱਠੀ ਵਿਚ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ, ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਈਮੇਲ [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) ਰਾਹੀਂ ਜਾਂ 01484 537456 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰਕੇ ਦੱਸੋ। ਸਾਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਨਾਮ, ਡਾਕ ਦਾ ਪਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰ ਦੱਸੋ ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਹੜੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ।

Punjabi

Ak by ste mali problém s porozumením tohto listu, dajte nám o tom prosím vedieť emailom na [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) alebo telefonicky na 01484 537 456. Uvedte, prosím, v akom jazyku by text mal byť, aby ste mu rozumeli, vaše meno, poštovú adresu a kontaktné telefónne číslo.

Slovak

Haddii aad dhibaato kala kulanto fahamka waxa ku qoran warqaddan, fadlan noo soo sheeg adigoo email u soo diraya [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) ama telefoon u soo dir 01484 537456. Hubi in aad noo soo sheegto luqadda/afka aad u baahan tahay, magacaaga, cinwaankaaga boosta iyo telefoon lambar lagaala soo xidhiidho.

Somali

اگر آپ کو اس خط میں دی گئی معلومات سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آرہی ہے تو براہ مہربانی [contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com](mailto:contact.huddersfield@syngenta.com) پر ہمیں ای میل کریں یا 01484 537456 پر فون کریں۔ براہ مہربانی ہمیں مطلوبہ زبان، اپنا نام، اپنا ڈاک کا پتہ اور رابطے کے لئے اپنا فون نمبر لازمی بتائیں۔

Urdu