

German Environment Agency

5. September 2019 Results of the UN/OECD Project on Natech Risk Management

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (UK)

OECD GP Activity	UN SF Activity	UN SD Goals / Targets
2. Consideration of natural hazards in siting / land use planning	2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	3.D Strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Classification according to OECD Guiding Principles, UN Sendai Framework Priorities/Activities, and UN SDGs and Targets

Figure 1: Flood risk management hierarchy



Source: © adelphi

Short Facts:	Natural Hazard(s) Considered:
Governance approach: National Policy Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, UK Entry into force: revised in 2019 Targeted Stakeholders: regional and local planning officers Scope of applicability: National	 Flooding Weather influenced hazards Climate change: Considered

Description

In February 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government revised the national planning policy framework that provides for all planning to bring together social, economic and environmental concerns to ensure sustainable development.

This includes reductions of greenhouse gas emissions as well as risk minimisation of the vulnerability of projects against flood and coastal change.

In this context, principles are also mentioned that must be taken into account in planning or site development for flood-prone areas. Future site developments should be for sites that are located, as far as possible, outside of flood risk areas. Although Natech establishments are not explicitly mentioned for this strategy, it can nevertheless be assumed that this also applies to Natech establishments.

The goal is to steer the buildings into areas with the lowest flood risk. Exceptions should only be allowed if there are not sufficiently available locations with lower flood risk. In individual cases, this would have to be proven by the applicant, taking into account certain criteria. One criterion is that, in planning applications, local authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere.

In coastal areas a risk-based approach to the location of development should be applied taking into account the current and future impacts of climate change. Under special circumstances this may include provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from coastal areas to avoid, where possible, flood risk to people and property.

Link/Contact:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change#planning-and-flood-risk

Comments by the UN/OECD Natech-Steering Group:

This example may be useful for the planning of new sites for hazardous installations as well as for review of the flood risks of existing sites.

Imprint

Publisher

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Completion: August/2019

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