



'Everyone has the right to a well-balanced and healthy environment'  
Environment Charter - Constitutional law of 1 March 2005

## The Inspectorate of Classified Installations

Environmental policing of industrial  
and agricultural facilities





## What is a classified installation?

A **classified installation** is any industrial or agricultural installation that is likely to present a risk or cause pollution or nuisance, especially if it is likely to affect the safety or health of local residents.

The activities covered by the legislation on classified installations are in a list that indicates whether they require an authorisation or merely a declaration, depending on the level of risk or inconvenience they present:

- **A Declaration** is required for the less polluting and less hazardous activities. A simple declaration to the Prefecture is all that is necessary.
- **An Authorisation** is required for higher levels of risk or pollution. Operators must submit an application for an authorisation demonstrating the acceptability of the risk before starting operating. The Prefect may grant or refuse the authorisation.



## Key figures... (as of 31 December 2005)

a total of **500,000** installations, of which **58,000** are subject to 'authorisation'

**1,190** SEVESO (high risk) \*

**7,000** IPPC (most polluting) \*

**21,500** livestock farms

**5,300** quarries

**1,160** waste treatment plants



\* **SEVESO and IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)** are the EU Directives on major industrial risks and on pollution. They cover, for example:

- for SEVESO II: refineries, chemical plants, fuel depots, etc.
- for IPPC: power stations, iron and steel plants, intensive farming, the chemical industry, waste treatment plants, mechanical engineering operations, surface treatment plants and food processing activities.

### Some regulatory references:

- Book V of the Environment Code
- Decree of 21 September 1977
- Risk prevention law, 30 July 2003
- Air pollution law, 30 December 1996
- IPPC Directive, 24 September 1996
- SEVESO II Directive, 9 September 1996

**Article L511-1 of the Environment Code:** 'The provisions of this article apply to factories, workshops, depots, work sites and, in general, to all installations operated or owned by any public or private person or entity, which might present hazards or inconveniences for the well-being of the surrounding area, or for public health and safety, or for agriculture, or for the protection of nature and the environment, or for the conservation of sites and monuments or elements of the archaeological heritage.'



## The historical background...

**In 1794**, the explosion of a gunpowder magazine at Grenelle, in the immediate vicinity of Paris, caused 1,000 deaths and made people aware of the potential risks and nuisances that human activities could cause.

**In 1806**, an Order from the Paris Prefect of Police required operators of hazardous or insalubrious installations to declare their activities. This requirement was reinforced and extended to the entire national territory by the Imperial Decree of **15 October 1810** which applied to facilities that were hazardous, insalubrious or a cause of inconvenience. The decree formed the basis for French legislation on classified installations.

**The Law of 19 December 1917** improved existing provisions and introduced the simple declaration requirement for less harmful facilities.

**In the late 1960s**, the inspection of classified installations, formerly the duty of the factory inspectorate, was entrusted to the Service des Mines (France's national inspections' agency) and then transferred to the Ministry of Environment when it was created in 1971.

**The Law of 19 July 1976** on the classification of installations for the protection of the environment became the legal basis underlying the industrial environment in France. This text is based on what is called an integrated approach, meaning that a single authorisation is granted to cover and regulate all relevant aspects: risk of accident; waste; and emissions to water, air and soils; etc. It also established a single competent authority for the implementation of this legislation: the Inspectorate of classified installations.

Risk prevention was strengthened by **the Law of 30 July 2003**, introduced after the catastrophic explosion of the AZF plant in Toulouse in 2001. The number of controls made by the inspection of classified installations also increased.

## Serving and protecting the population

The Inspectorate's mission is to provide environmental policing of industrial and agricultural facilities, with the aim of preventing and reducing hazards and nuisances in order to protect people, health and the environment. Operators, nonetheless, remain responsible for their installations, from when they start operating through to shutdown or transfer.

There are three main aspects to the Inspectorate's mission:

- **regulatory supervision:** examination of applications for authorisation, make a proposal to Prefects for operational requirements to be placed on facilities, examination of files on closure of activity;
- **monitoring of classified installations:** on-site inspections, examination of studies or expert inspections, proposal of administrative sanctions to Prefects or for prosecution to Public Prosecutors in case of infringement of regulations;
- **provision of information** to the public.

To achieve their goals inspectors must all share the common values of **competence, impartiality, fairness and transparency**.



## An organisation with full national coverage

The Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development is responsible for the inspection of classified installations. The Directorate for Risk and Pollution Prevention develops regulations, monitors their implementation and manages the inspection services.

Under the authority of Departmental Prefects, inspection and enforcement are mainly carried out by:

- **the Directions régionales de l'industrie, de la recherche et de l'environnement** (DRIRE – regional directorates for industry, research and the environment) for most industrial facilities;
- **the Directions départementales des services vétérinaires** (DDSV – departmental veterinary services) for farms, abattoirs, animal carcass disposal contractors and some food processing activities.
- **the Service technique de la préfecture de police de Paris** (STIIC – technical department of the police prefecture of Paris) for Paris and its surrounding area.

There are around 1,500 inspectors (equivalent to 1,150 full time) –engineers, technicians and veterinary surgeons– all of whom are State officials who have taken an oath.



## The Inspectorate in action

### Preventing risks of accident:

- enhanced safety of 'Seveso' plants;
- introduction of technological risk prevention plans;
- monitoring of depots of pyrotechnical devices (fireworks);
- improved safety of LPG storage and grain storage silos, etc.



### Preventing pollution of water, air and soils:

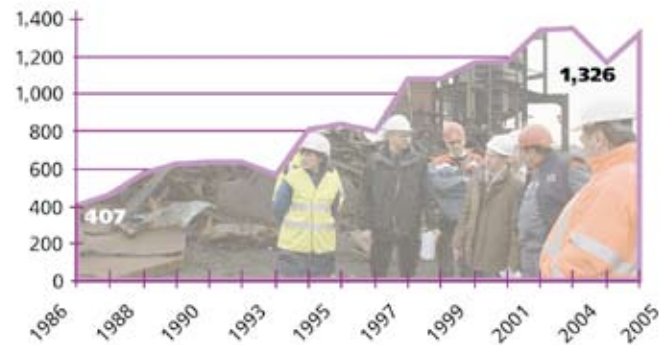
- control and reduction of toxic emissions that are dangerous for health;
- management of contaminated sites and restrictions on use, sites polluted by asbestos;
- prevention of legionella disease;
- monitoring of animal carcass disposal;
- annual disclosure and publication of emissions by the most significant emitters;
- ensuring compliance of household-waste incinerators and landfills;
- reductions in emissions to water and the atmosphere (VOC, lead, copper, dust, etc.);
- monitoring of GHG emissions trading market.

**Developing and participating in bodies providing information** to communities around hazardous sites, waste treatment plants, etc.

### Useful links

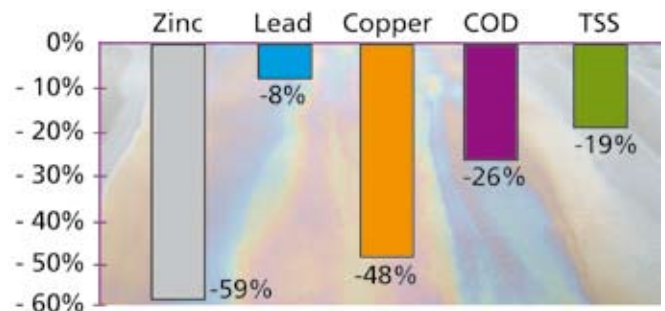
- Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable: [www.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr)
- Réglementation des installations classées: [aida.ineris.fr](http://aida.ineris.fr)
- Inventaire des accidents technologiques et industriels: [www.aria.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.aria.ecologie.gouv.fr)
- Registre français des émissions polluantes: [www.pollutionsindustrielles.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.pollutionsindustrielles.ecologie.gouv.fr)
- Portail des sites et sols (potentiellement) pollués ou radio-contaminés: [www.sites-pollues.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.sites-pollues.ecologie.gouv.fr)
- DRIRE websites: [www.drire.gouv.fr](http://www.drire.gouv.fr)

## Number of penalties imposed by the inspectors

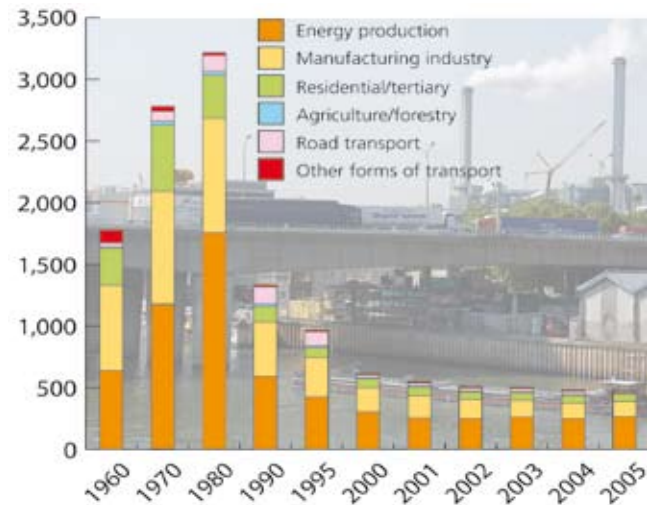


## Water pollution

Reduction in emissions between 1999 and 2004 by principal emitters in 1999



## Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> in France between 1960 and 2005 (x1000 t)



## Dioxin emissions from household waste incineration plants (In g/year)

