



## Outcome of the Task Group on revising the HELCOM Response Manual Volume II (HELCOM TG HNS MANUAL 4-2015)

The Fourth Meeting of HELCOM TG HNS MANUAL took place on 5 May 2015 from 9:00 to 16:00 at the Ministry of Urban Development and Environment, Free and Hanseatic City Hamburg.

The Meeting was attended by participants from Finland, Germany, Poland, Sweden and the HELCOM Secretariat. Prof. Dr. Weird Koops (The Netherlands), the author of the “Chemical Spill Response Manual” was invited to present the Chemical Spill Response Manual and for further discussions of the matter. The List of participants is included as **Annex 1**.

The following provisional agenda has been forwarded by email and was adopted by the Meeting:

1. Presentation of the Chemical Spill Response Manual
2. Presentation of a German Approach to a Chemical Spill Response Manual
3. Others Approaches
4. Work on the TG HNS Manual, in particular chapter 4 (Response)
5. Any other business

### Presentation of the Chemical Spill Response Manual

The Meeting welcomed Prof. Dr. Weird Koops, the author of the Chemical Spill Response Manual. This Manual is a product of a Dutch research project with the help of various Dutch companies and NGO organisations. His research group Maritime, Marine, Environment and Safety Management has conducted studies on risk, response, detection and organizational aspects regarding chemical spills.

The Manual is accessible here [http://www.spillresponse.nl/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.spillresponse.nl/index.php/Main_Page) and can be used as a source or information for the HELCOM HNS Manual.

### Presentation of a German Approach to a Chemical Spill Response Manual

Germany reported the ongoing work on a German Chemical Spill response Manual of the German Coastal States. This Manual is intended to support the operators and on scene coordinators of various organisations involved in chemical spills. Important sources of information are the Technical Guidance Documents of the German fire brigades:

It is expected, that the Manual will be finalized and approved by the Federal Government and the Federal Coastal States at the end of the year.

### Other approaches

Finland: At now the work focuses on the project applications for CHEMARE and CHEMSAR.

Sweden, Poland: Although the work on a national Chemical Spill Response Manual is on the agenda, it is not expected that such a Manual will be finalized soon.

### Work on the TG HNS Manual

The TG asked Mr. Koops for recommendations to the table of contents and the contents.

Regarding the introduction the key question “How the Manual should be used” should be answered.

- Germany, Sweden and Poland are in favour of a more “operational” Manual that supports on scene commanders / on scene coordinators.

- Taking into account that the Manual should improve co-operation between HELCOM states, the Manual has to support the national operational control bodies.
- The meeting realized that the needs of on scene commanders / on scene coordinators differ from the operational control bodies and concluded that guidance should distinguish between these user groups.

Regarding the structure of the document, the TG decided that the manual should follow the procedure of emergency response with following steps:

- Alerting / Initial measures
- Hazard assessment
- Detection of Hazards
- Risk assessment
- Response

Regarding the contents of these chapters, the TG agreed on the following additions to the Manual:

### **Alerting / Initial measures**

The chapter deals with alerting, obtaining information, communication and initial measures, before the situation has been fully evaluated. Communication makes reference to international /European standards and includes aspects of liability (HNS-Convention).

### **Hazard assessment**

There is no need to change the structure of the present Chapter 2 (Hazards: Definition, Identification and Assessment). The roles of on scene commanders / on scene coordinators and the operational control body will be specified and specific guidance given.

### **Detection of Hazards**

The chapter deals with detection, sampling and monitoring. An important source of information is the Chemical Spill Response Manual. Member of the TG may check the information regarding completeness and what is currently available / applicable in the HELCOM region.

### **Risk assessment**

Risk assessment as a combination of hazard assessment, detection and safety considerations (safe platform, PPE) will be presented.

### **Response**

The response will differ between a general approach and general remedial measures and scenarios for releases of chemicals. The general approach includes ships in distress.

The TG discussed the decisions tree for all scenarios in the Chemical Spill Response Manual (chapter 6: response options). The TG concluded, that all the presented decision trees are very good usable. Only minor changes were in the TG discussed taking into account the specific policies (e.g. detergents) regarding the Baltic Sea.

### **Any other business**

Actions agreed:

1. Germany provides a revised table of contents.
2. HELCOM provides a revised introduction
3. Germany revises the present draft and adds information from the Chemical Spill Response Manual
4. Report at the HELCOM Response Meeting in Brussels

**Annex 1 List of Participants**

Michael Akkermann	Germany
Dr. Klaus Daginnus	Germany
Jani Häkkinen	Finland
Marek Reszko	Poland
Alexander von Buxhoeveden	Sweden
Hermann Backer	HELCOM
Prof. Dr. Weird Koops	NHL University Leuwarden; The Netherlands