



November 2020

Dear Neighbour,

### **Safety information for local residents**

Essar Oil (UK) Ltd operates the Tranmere Oil Terminal at St Pauls Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside, England, CH42 1LW ("Tranmere"), and issues information on safety procedures to householders and businesses in the local community. Safety is an absolute priority at Tranmere, and we ensure all practicable steps are taken to prevent incidents of any type.

We have emergency plans in place to minimise the effects of any incident. There are fire detection and alarm systems which will give an early warning of a fire, and the Terminal has an extensive inventory of fire-fighting equipment. If necessary, Local Authority Services including Merseyside Fire Service are able to respond rapidly and provide additional support to our own Terminal personnel.

### **The COMAH regulations and you**

Tranmere is subject to the COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Regulations 2015. These are enforced by the Competent Authority namely the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency. The purpose of the COMAH Regulations is to prevent and mitigate the effects of major accidents involving dangerous substances which can potentially cause serious harm or injury to people and/or damage to the environment.

We have notified the Competent Authority that Tranmere is an "upper tier" site under the COMAH Regulations. As an operator of such a site, we are required to fulfil specific obligations including communicating with the public. Therefore, we are writing to inform you that Tranmere continues to deal with the importation, exportation and storage of hazardous substances. We understand the risks involved in working with these substances and have in place the appropriate processes to prevent and control incidents.

We are also required by the COMAH Regulations to prepare and submit a safety report to the Competent Authority for its review. The Competent Authority also conducts regular, pre-planned, intervention visits to ensure that we take all measures necessary to prevent a major incident at the site.

Further information is available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah>.

It is important that our neighbours understand what to do in the extremely unlikely event of a major incident occurring at Tranmere. This is why we have sent this letter and the enclosed Emergency Instructions Card. This does not mean anything has changed at Tranmere or that you need to be concerned.

As mentioned above, we have emergency plans in place under which we liaise closely with the Emergency Services. In addition, we have supplied information to the County Emergency Planning Officer to enable contingency plans to be drawn up. We consult regularly with the Emergency Services and conduct training exercises with them.

### **The processes and major hazards at Tranmere**

Tranmere Oil Terminal has two jetties through which crude oil, other refinery feedstocks and products are imported/exported to and from tankers. These are connected to the Terminal, which has a number of storage tanks linked to Stanlow Refinery by pipelines.

The crude oil feedstocks and petroleum products which are stored at the Terminal are flammable and if released could give rise to a fire or might cause pollution of local waterways and the environment. Measures preventing such releases are taken into account during the design, construction and

maintenance of the tanks and equipment at the Terminal, with the highest industry standards applied throughout.

In addition, there are fire detection and alarm systems to give early warning of a fire, and an extensive inventory of fire-fighting equipment. Ignition of a major release of flammable material could result in an explosion or, more likely, a fire. Off-site effects are extremely unlikely, but could include heat radiation and smoke concentration from fires, pressure waves from explosions or harmful levels of toxic gases.

Tranmere's operations are conducted with the specific aim of preventing such an event. Robust systems and procedures are in place to detect fire or leaks of hazardous substances and to raise the alarm. Should an incident occur, Essar will bring into operation its regularly tested emergency procedures and, if necessary, these will be reinforced by the Emergency Services.

### **What you should do in the event of a major incident**

To warn you of a site emergency which might have effects off-site, we have a siren installed at the site which should be audible at your premises.

### **Siren testing takes place on the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00am.**

It is important you know what to do should there be a major incident at Tranmere. Please therefore read the enclosed Emergency Instructions Card carefully, make sure all occupants in your premises understand its contents and keep it safe and in an accessible place.

Please cooperate fully with the instructions given by the Emergency Services in the event of any major incident.

Remember the rule: **GO IN, STAY IN, LOG IN.**

Please do not telephone the site at Tranmere in the event of a major incident, in order to keep lines free for emergency use. Information will be given on our website: [www.essar.co.uk](http://www.essar.co.uk), by the Emergency Services and on BBC Radio Merseyside.

### **Emergency communications – Rapid Reach**

You can also be contacted by our Rapid Reach telephone notification system if you register with us. Registration has proved very successful in other areas with over 1,000 residents and businesses signing up. The system is suitable for either home or mobile telephone and text. It is designed to warn you of a major incident at the Tranmere site, which may have an effect off-site. It will tell you what actions you should take to ensure your safety. The system also has the facility to keep you informed should a major incident persist, and it will call you to let you know when the 'all clear' is given. If you would like to register for our Rapid Reach system and wish to subscribe to this free service, then please fill in and return the enclosed form via our Freepost address.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any queries, or require additional copies of the Emergency Instruction Card please contact 0151 350 4000.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Barden  
Chief Operating Officer  
Essar Oil (UK) Limited