

Safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines



Why are these safety guidelines needed?

Pipelines – which transport large volumes of hazardous substances, such as crude oil and natural gas – are essential for the industrial and energy sectors. They also represent a serious risk as the uncontrolled release of containment, fires or explosions can be deadly and cause water pollution and major environmental catastrophes, both within and across country borders. Several major pipeline accidents around the world were tragic reminders of this. The safety of pipeline construction, operation and maintenance therefore needs to be continuously ensured.

How can the safety guidelines help?

These guidelines contain key principles and recommendations for the safe transport of hazardous substances by pipelines. They include specific recommendations for governments, competent authorities and pipelines operators to prevent pipeline accidents and improve safety.

Where are the safety guidelines available?

The guidelines are available on the UNECE webpage in English and Russian (www.unece.org/index.php?id=41068). They were developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents with the support of UNECE to prevent accidental water pollution and its transboundary effects.

For questions and further information:

Industrial Accidents Convention: ece-teia.conv@un.org

Water Convention: water.convention@un.org

Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents:
www.unece.org/env/teia/jeg.html

