

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Since 1958, Heinrich Schnarr GmbH has operated a facility in Mainaschaff dedicated to the electroplating of metal surfaces for protection against corrosion and wear. Utilizing our own proprietary technical expertise, we finish workpieces that are subsequently shipped to Schnarr customers worldwide. We plan, construct, and operate safe and environmentally sound facilities, which are subject to oversight by the competent authorities as well as external experts.

In this context, Heinrich Schnarr GmbH is subject to the regulations set forth in the 12th BImSchV (Federal Immission Control Ordinance). A corresponding notification pursuant to Section 7, Paragraph 1 of the 12th BImSchV has been submitted to the competent authority.

With this informational document, we fulfill our statutory obligations (known as “basic duties”) regarding the provision of information to the public.

1. How and what does Schnarr produce in Mainaschaff?

At this site, industrial products are coated with nickel or chromium – via chemical nickel plating and electrolytic hard chrome plating – in facilities specifically designed for this purpose.

2. From which substances could an accident originate, and what are their primary hazardous properties?

Despite all safety precautions, an accident can never be completely ruled out. An accident could originate from the following chemicals present at the facility:

Chrome electrolyte: very toxic to aquatic organisms; may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment. The chromium trioxide contained in the chrome electrolyte is carcinogenic, mutagenic, and very toxic if inhaled (in the form of aerosols – i.e., droplets finely dispersed in the air).

Nickel electrolyte: toxic to aquatic organisms; may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

Nitric acid: corrosive; in the event of a malfunction, nitrogen oxides may be generated, which are very toxic if inhaled.

A release of water-hazardous liquids (despite the existing accident-prevention measures) could lead to contamination of the soil and groundwater; however, such contamination would remain locally confined and remediable. The impacts would remain limited to the facility premises.

In the event of nitrogen oxide formation resulting from a malfunction, or in the event of a fire, (highly) toxic gases – such as nitrogen oxides (brown fumes) or combustion gases (carbon monoxide and soot in the form of dark smoke plumes) – could be released. Consequently, under unfavorable weather and wind conditions, parts of the surrounding neighborhood could be adversely affected (causing irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract, shortness of breath, headaches, or dizziness). Based on all available experience, a serious hazard to persons located outside the facility premises is not to be expected.

3. Further Information in the Event of an Incident

3.1 How will you become aware of the incident?

Plumes of smoke over the facility.

3.2 How will you be alerted?

Public address announcements by the police and fire department.

3.3 Where should you seek assistance in a personal emergency?

Emergency number 112 (Please do not tie up the emergency lines for the police, fire department, or ambulance services with general inquiries, unless a specific situation makes it necessary).

3.4 How can you protect yourself and others?

- Stay away from the scene of the incident!
- Seek shelter in a sturdy building!
- Bring children indoors immediately!

- Assist those in need!
- Offer shelter to passersby!
- Alert your immediate neighbors!
- Close all doors and windows!
- Switch off ventilation and air conditioning systems in buildings and vehicles!
- Strictly follow the instructions given by the police, fire department, and other emergency services. Do not take matters into your own hands!
- If you experience any health issues, contact your family doctor or the medical emergency service!

3.5 How will the "all clear" be signaled?

Listen for "all clear" announcements broadcast via radio or through police or fire department loudspeakers/vehicles. You will receive detailed information regarding any operational disruption through the media.

4. Further Information

The most recent on-site inspection by the competent authority took place on November 5, 2025. Detailed information may be obtained from the Government of Lower Franconia.

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