Safe and Sustainable Transport in the European Chemical Industry

Responsible Care

cefic
Safe and sustainable transport is critical to the future of the European chemical industry.

Ensuring safe transport and handling of its products, with care for the environment and in full accordance with regulations, is of key importance for the image and reputation of the chemical industry. At the same time, efficient, reliable and competitive transport and logistics are necessary conditions for international trade, on which the chemical industry thrives.

As part of Responsible Care®, the chemical industry has made a commitment to continuously improve its safety and environmental performance. Numerous voluntary initiatives have been taken to promote and implement the very best in terms of safety and environmental standards in transport and logistics.

The chemical industry also promotes excellence in supply chain operations, with the aim of achieving even more efficiency and making better use of available transport and logistics resources.

The chemical industry is not only a user of transport. It contributes to more sustainable transport by developing new products, materials and processes – such as lightweight components and fuel additives – which help reduce energy consumption and emissions.

Cefic’s contribution to safe and sustainable chemical transport and logistics

Promoting best practices
In close collaboration with the transport industry, Cefic develops and promotes guidelines on best practices in transport and logistics operations. These guidelines address a wide variety of topics such as:
- Safety management practices for logistics service providers
- Safety awareness and behaviour (Behaviour Based Safety - BBS) in vehicle driving and loading/unloading operations
- Subcontracting of road transport
- Security in transport
- Standardised logistics performance measurement
- Transport equipment for packed and bulk cargo
- Stowage and securing of packed cargo on vehicles
- Extension of loading/unloading windows (16 hrs operation)
- Transperanto, a language communication tool for drivers and site operators
- Sharing of learning from incidents and accidents.

For further information please see www.cefic.org/logistics

Managing the Safety and Quality Assessment Systems (SQAS) for logistics service providers and distributors
A growing number of chemical companies use Cefic’s Safety and Quality Assessment Systems (SQAS) for evaluating the safety, security, quality and environmental standards of their logistics service providers. SQAS assessments are carried out by a European network of accredited independent third-party assessors using a standard questionnaire. This ensures consistency and avoids duplication of assessments.

SQAS now covers all key service providers in the land-logistics chain: road transport companies, intermodal operators and terminals, rail carriers, rail tank car maintenance workshops, packaged goods warehouses and tank cleaning stations. A similar scheme (ESAD) has been developed for chemical distributors, in co-operation with the European Chemical Distributors Association (FECC). The same concept has also been applied for sea and barge transport through the Chemical Distribution Institute (CDI) and the European Barge Inspection Scheme (EBIS).
The chemical industry is undertaking a wide range of initiatives contributing to the sustainability of its transports operations.
Advocating proper international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods

Cefic strives to ensure that international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods are in line with best industry practice and not excessively and unnecessarily burdensome. Cefic supports the highest possible international and inter-modal harmonisation of the regulations.

Cefic has a long-standing observer status with most of the important official international regulatory bodies in this field, allowing the European chemical industry to promote its views on issues of interest.

A MAJOR SHIPPER OF GOODS

The European chemical industry transports more than 1.5 billion tonnes of chemical products annually - about 8% of all the freight shipped in Europe. The industry's transport & supply chain expenditure amounts to more than € 50 billion per year, or roughly 10% of its entire turnover.

CONTACTS

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Cefic’s working structure for transport and logistics

Cefic’s transport and logistics activities are part of the Cefic Programme ‘Energy, HSE and Logistics’. They are steered by the Cefic Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) on Logistics, which is composed of senior logistics managers from 15 major chemical companies and representatives from EPCA, CDI and the national chemical federations.

The SIG Logistics is supported by four Issue Teams:

- European Transport Policy and Regulations
- Best Practices in Transport and Logistics
- Transport & Environment
- Communication & Promotion

Cefic co-operates closely with other stakeholders in the logistics chain on issues of common interest, in particular with the transport industry through representative associations such as the European Chemical Transport Association (ECTA), the International Road Union (IRU), the European Federation of Tank Cleaning Organisations (EFTCO) and the International Tank Container Organisation (ITCO).
Speaking a common transport language with Transperanto

Communication can be difficult when truck drivers from all over Europe enter chemical sites and storage terminals to load and discharge products. A minimum of understanding is however essential. Transperanto (derived from Esperanto, transport and transparency) is a tool that has been developed by Cefic to facilitate effective communication in different languages between truck drivers and personnel at chemical loading and unloading sites. It is based on 150 key words and phrases related to transport safety, translated in 26 European languages. These key words are available on a dedicated website or as a booklet, enabling users to view a set of words in selected languages. Transperanto supports two-way communication, for example between foreign drivers and staff at a gate-house or a dispatch office.

For more information please see www.transperanto.org

Improving safety performance by Behaviour Based Safety (BBS)

BBS is a training programme that aims to increase safety during transport, by positively influencing the behaviour of the drivers through observation, coaching and communication. To this end a driver is accompanied by a trained observer while driving on the road. This programme not only improves the safety performance of chemical transport but has also a positive effect on fuel consumption, vehicle emissions and maintenance costs. BBS has been widely implemented by the transport industry and is part of the European Road Safety Charter signed by the European Chemical Transport Association (ECTA).

The BBS concept has also been introduced in loading/unloading operations.

SQAS going global

Cefic’s SQAS programme, which now covers all key service providers in the land-logistics chain, has acquired an excellent reputation and gained wide acceptance as an industry standard.

There is also much interest in SQAS outside Europe. The SQAS concept is recognised by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) as best practice and is used as a model for setting up similar assessment schemes in other regions in the world, where logistics safety standards are not yet uniformly addressed.
Cefic - The European Chemical Industry Council

Chemistry making a world of difference

Cefic is the Brussels-based organisation representing national chemical federations and chemical companies in Europe. Cefic represents, directly or indirectly, around 29,000 large, medium and small companies in Europe, which employ about 2 million people and account for more than 30% of world chemicals production.

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