

## **CEFIC RESPONSIBLE CARE AWARDS (2013)**

### **Introduction**

The following pages highlight the importance of industry guidelines and illustrate the way in which they can have transnational significance by providing a ready-made operational standard applicable in other member states.

All the guidelines listed have been devised and launched within the UK. They have been endorsed by the industry's main regulatory body, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and are used by HSE Inspectors on site visits.

The guidelines proactively address changing levels of risks within the industry, focus on newly emerging risks, or make good a gap in existing guidance. In this latter respect, the chemical industry in the Netherlands has recently adopted CBA guidelines in order to fill just such a gap.

CBA's industry guidelines are founded on the principles of Responsible Care in that they are designed to promote health, safety, security and environmental excellence, higher levels of performance, product stewardship and enhance confidence in the integrity of the chemical supply chain.

### **Storage of Flammable Liquids in Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs)**

This guidance is based on research conducted by the UK Health & Safety Laboratory for the HSE and was developed jointly by CBA with the Solvent Industries Association (SIA). Research revealed concerns about the fire resistance of plastic components in composite IBCs and the potential for their contents to be released very quickly when exposed to relatively minor fires. IBCs were also shown to be especially vulnerable to fire even when not directly involved as the ignition source.

The guidance provides a step-by-step approach to risk assessment in relation to storage hazards and the risk of fire. It focuses on the management of these risks and the controls that can be introduced.

In the UK, the guidance is available through the websites of CBA and SIA and has been provided to Fecc and Cefic as well as other national associations for distributors.

A serious chemical incident, in December 2011, prompted the chemical producers and distributors in the Netherlands to adopt the CBA/SIA guidance. The incident, at the Chemiepack site near Rotterdam, arose from the ignition of flammable liquids in storage. No casualties resulted from the incident but considerable damage – valued at 70 million euros - was caused. In December 2012, three company executives received sentences of community service orders plus fines amounting to 400,000 euros.

In the aftermath of this incident, industry organisations recognised the relative absence of guidance relating to the storage of flammable liquids in IBCs. The Association of the Dutch Chemical Industry (VNCI) contacted CBA after becoming aware of the Association's guidance document on the storage of flammable liquids in IBCs. CBA responded promptly and positively to this request. VNCI have since distributed the guidance to other associations, such as the paint and ink producers (VVFV) and chemical distributors (VHCP).

To read the full guidance [click here](#)

### **Non-metallic Tank Inspections**

This guidance covers the storage of chemicals in non-metallic tanks. It aims to ensure that operators using plastic tanks or vessels do not use them beyond a reasonable life span in relation to the substance being stored. It was developed by CBA in conjunction with the Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) to fill an identified gap and aimed to provide practical guidance in the absence of specific legal duties or regulations relative to the inspection of non-metallic storage tanks. The guidance creates the concept of an 'experiential life' for a non-metallic tank or vessel which takes account of all aspects of its usage.

This guidance is available through the CBA and SAFed websites and has been made available to other UK and European industry associations.

To read the full guidance [click here](#)

### **Chemical Warehouses: Safety Performance Leading Indicators**

This guidance helps companies operating chemical warehouses to proactively manage hazard risks effectively and offers a practical six-step programme to creating Safety Performance Leading Indicators (SPLI). Focused mainly on warehouse sites within scope of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (Seveso Directive), the guidance can be adapted to other facilities needing to maintain the integrity of their safety systems.

Developed jointly by CBA and the UK Warehousing Association (UKWA), the guidance has been endorsed by HSE, and recognises that smaller businesses and warehouses have limited resources. It offers a pragmatic framework that recognises these constraints and moves the management of safety beyond a simple reliance on historical data.

This guidance is available through the CBA and UKWA websites and has been made available to other UK and European industry associations.

To read the full guidance [click here](#)

### **Safe Handling and Storage of Packaged Hydrofluoric Acid**

This guidance aims to increase safety standards in relation to the severe hazards posed by the distribution of packaged Hydrofluoric Acid. It received formal endorsement by the HSE. This has the practical effect of setting standards for the whole UK chemical supply chain – not just CBA member companies.

The guidance covers the full range of operational factors as well as cross-references to relevant legislation and sources of further information. It is available through the CBA website and has been made available to other UK and European industry associations.

To read the full guidance [click here](#)

### **Load Securing Guidelines**

These guidelines aim to ensure the safe transport of packaged chemicals and they aim to complement the UK Department for Transport's Code of Practice which sets basic standards for general load stowage and securing.

CBA's guidelines have been endorsed by the HSE that says in a foreword that 'unsafe loads on vehicles injure more than 1,200 people every year and cost UK business millions of pounds in damaged goods.' The guidelines offer the best practice advice for loading, stowing, segregating, securing and unloading packaged chemical cargo as well as setting good practice that can be referenced by enforcement authorities and the courts.

It is available through the CBA website and has been made available to other UK and European industry associations.

To read the full guidance [click here](#)

### **Storage of Flammable Liquids in Specified Storage Areas**

These guidelines focus on the external storage of flammable liquids in sealed packages and were developed jointly by CBA and the Solvent Industries Association (SIA). They provide advice on the range of factors needing to be taken into account in relation to the engineering and management controls to be deployed to reduce the occurrence and duration of potentially explosive atmospheres in external storage areas.

The CBA and SIA website provide access to this guidance which has also been made available to other UK and European industry associations.

To read the full guidance [click here](#)

## **Summary**

This series of documents demonstrate a long-term commitment by CBA to take a lead in developing and implementing industry guidance throughout the independent UK chemical supply chain. These guides also show a consistent history of product stewardship achievement in sharing good and best practice guidance documents developed and used on a collaborative basis with other industry associations and which have been formally endorsed by the UK competent authority across multiple sectors.

## **About CBA**

CBA represents the independent chemical supply chain. Its membership includes distributors, traders, warehouse operators, along with logistics and transport companies. CBA's members, the majority of which are SMEs, are the main industry interface with thousands of UK downstream chemical users.

CBA member companies employ more than 7,800 people. They distribute, pack, and blend more than 3 million tonnes of chemicals each year with a market value of almost three billion euros.

Compliance with Responsible Care has been mandatory for all CBA members since 2002.