



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Honeywell Chemical Incidents
Recommendation Number:	2003-13-I-LA-R10 and 16
Date Issued:	August 8, 2005
Recipient:	R10: Honeywell International, Inc. Baton Rouge Facility R16: Honeywell International, Inc.
New Status:	Closed- Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	February 14, 2013

Recommendation Text:

R10: Revise the personal protective equipment matrix to include requirements for specific activities, such as draining [hydrogen fluoride] equipment. Refer to the [Hydrogen Fluoride Industry Practices Institute] guidelines as appropriate.

R16: Develop and implement corporate standards for safely handling hydrogen fluoride.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

These recommendations were issued pursuant to CSB's investigation of the August 13, 2003 hydrogen fluoride release incident at the Honeywell International, Inc. Baton Rouge facility, which exposed two workers. Neither worker was wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during a non-routine operation to drain liquid hydrogen fluoride from a vaporizer. The CSB found that the Baton Rouge facility's PPE matrix did not specify the PPE required for specific activities, such as draining HF equipment, and that this contrasted with guidance published by the Hydrogen Fluoride Industry Practices Institute (HFIPI). The CSB also found that HF handling practices varied across different Honeywell facilities.

B. Response to the Recommendation

Honeywell reported to the CSB that it issued corporate-level HF-handling standards, including a revised PPE matrix, based in part upon HFIPI guidelines. Honeywell's revised PPE matrix gives examples of activities that would require different levels of PPE; Honeywell also explicitly clarified that employees would be required to use Level B PPE for operations involving the draining of HF equipment into an open system where there is a potential for splashing.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Because Honeywell reported actions consistent with the intent of the CSB's recommendations, the Board voted to change the status of these recommendations to "Closed- Acceptable Action."