



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Hoeganaes Corporation Fatal Flash Fires
Recommendation Number:	2011-4-I-TN-R2
Date Issued:	December 16, 2011
Recipient:	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
New Status:	Closed – Reconsidered/Superseded
Date of Status Change:	May 23, 2019

Recommendation Text:

Develop and publish a proposed combustible dust standard for general industry within one year of the approval of this case study.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

Between January and May of 2011, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated three iron dust-related incidents at the Gallatin, TN, facility of the Hoeganaes Corporation, a worldwide producer of atomized iron and steel powders. The first iron dust flash fire incident killed two workers and the second injured an employee. The third incident, a hydrogen explosion and resulting iron dust flash fire, claimed three lives and injured two.

As a part of its investigations, the CSB reviewed applicable federal regulations and determined there were significant regulatory gaps at the time of the incident. Five recommendations were issued to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from this investigation. This Status Change Summary only addresses Recommendation No. 2011-4-I-TN-R2.

B. Response to the Recommendation

On June 14, 2012, OSHA stated that the issuance of a combustible dust standard was in the “early stages” of federal rulemaking and remained a “top priority” for the agency.

OSHA held several public meetings and scheduled a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) panel, however on March 30, 2017, OSHA announced in its semi-annual regulatory agenda that the agency was withdrawing its rulemaking proposal for the creation of a standard for combustible dust in general industry citing resource constraints and other priorities as the reason for the withdrawal. The CSB has received no other communication from OSHA with respect to Recommendation No. 2011-4-I-TN-R2.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

The Board found the information above supportive of an unacceptable status; however, in this case upon further review it was found that Recommendation No. 2011-4-I-TN-R2 is the same recommendation reissued to the same recommendation recipient (OSHA) as Recommendation No. 2006-1-H-XX-R1 from the Combustible Dust Hazard Investigation and Recommendation No. 2008-05-I-GA-11 from the

Imperial Sugar Company Dust Explosion and Fire investigation. As this recommendation did not substantively change and serves no other purpose relative to preventing the reoccurrence of the chemical incident or mitigating its consequences or expediting the implementation of the original recommendation, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2011-4-I-TN-R2 to: **“Closed – Reconsidered/Superseded.”**