



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	LyondellBasell La Porte Fatal Chemical Release
Recommendation Number:	2021-05-I-TX-R3
Date Issued:	May 25, 2023
Recipient:	Turn2 Specialty Companies
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	June 19, 2024

Recommendation Text:

Update Turn2 policy documents to require that Turn2 employees are provided with written, detailed procedures for safely conducting work on process equipment and are trained on the procedures before the work is authorized to be performed.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On July 27, 2021, three contract workers at the LyondellBasell La Porte Complex in La Porte, Texas were removing an actuator from a plug valve in the site's acetic acid unit. While attempting to remove the actuator, the pressure retaining components of the valve were inadvertently removed causing the eventual ejection of the plug from the valve body and a release of acetic acid.

Approximately 164,000 pounds of acetic acid mixture was released from the unit. All three contract workers were sprayed with the acetic acid mixture fatally injuring two of the workers and seriously injuring the third. An additional twenty-nine personnel were transported to offsite medical facilities for evaluation and treatment.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including a lack of procedures, hazard awareness, training, as well as the potential for improvement related to plug valve design. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to Turn2 Specialty Companies. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2021-05-I-TX-R3.

B. Response to the Recommendation

Turn2 Specialty Companies notified the CSB that their Work Permitting Policy has been updated to require detailed written procedures and training prior to authorizing work to be performed in process areas. This updated policy applies to both planned and unplanned work. Upon review of the information provided, the CSB concluded that Turn2 Specialty Companies' actions satisfy the recommendation.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2021-05-I-TX-R3 to: “Closed – Acceptable Action.”