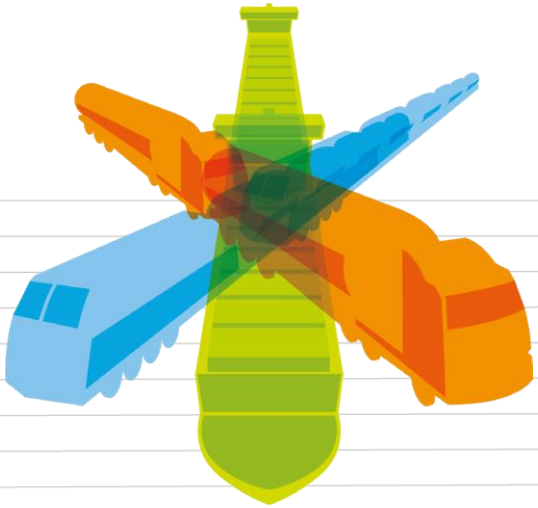

Working with nitrogen

Nitrogen (N2) is a colourless and odourless gas that is all around us. About 78% of the air consists of nitrogen. Nitrogen gas is used in bulk transport to guarantee quality of food products. Nitrogen gas is inert, meaning it does not chemically react with the product. This preserves freshness, prevents oxidation and the growth of aerobic bacteria.

Nitrogen gas is a heavy gas which displaces oxygen. It therefore stays behind in the tank. Failing to warn about the use of nitrogen can pose major risks to anyone involved in loading, unloading, cleaning, or repairing the loading unit. Breathing in can lead to loss of consciousness, in the worst case resulting in death.

Be extra alert at loading and unloading sites

Although we demand that our business partners inform us about use of nitrogen and taking necessary precautions, in practice this does not always happen. Always be alert, make sure you never inhale the compressed air. Consult the customer if you are not sure and report it immediately. Your planner should make proper preparations, including coordinating with the customer, updating the information in our system, and reporting it on the booking for cleaning.

Nitrogen when loading and unloading

After loading, a nitrogen blanket is essentially placed 'over the product' via the air pipe. Usually, this nitrogen blanket is added by a loading address employee, but as a driver, you may have to do this yourself. The planning department has a procedure/method for this. If you need to do this for the first time, it is possible to receive on-the-job training as well as instruction on the procedure/method.

Nitrogen is also used as an aid in pressurised unloading. In dry bulk, nitrogen is occasionally used to prevent static electricity, for example, during unloading of plastics.

Use nitrogen seals and stickers

Do you establish that nitrogen is used in loading or unloading? If so, always take the necessary precautions to warn others and thereby avoid dangerous situations. Precautions include applying:

- Nitrogen seal/sticker on the dome lids.
- Nitrogen seal/sticker at the outlet.
- Nitrogen seal on the air hose and/or ground control.
- write date and time on the sticker and clean the surface before applying the sticker to ensure it adheres well.

- The loading/unloading site is responsible for providing the correct stickers/seals. Nevertheless, it is wise to carry these yourself or pick them up on the road in advance.
- To avoid confusion, the warning stickers should be removed after cleaning.