Leakages / Spills

Owner: QESH Manager

Purpose:
Prevent leakages. Leakages cost a lot of time, harm the environment, can damage the product or cause reputational damage. By following the correct instructions and working methods, damages can be prevented.

Scope:
Van den Bosch

Responsible:
Driver

Method

A leakage is a situation in which product is spilled. This can occur during or after loading/unloading. The causes vary; in most cases it is human error. We want to prevent this as much as possible.

Common causes of leakages:

- Wrong or damaged gaskets.
- Incorrect placement of gaskets in manlids, pump or outlet.

- Stopping the product flow too late.
- Loading arm or loading sock not positioned correctly in the manlid.

- Loading hose not fully emptied, causing product to spill during switching or disconnecting.
- Failing to close outlet, bottom valves, manlids, or fluidizing bottom correctly.
- Sample valve left open.
- Vent valve open during pressure build-up.
- Forgetting to connect a dust bag during blowing.
- Air line left open.

- Hose not connected correctly.
- Hose not emptied after unloading.
- Failing to place end caps after unloading.
- Not checking or tightening clamps and end caps after loading.

How to prevent leakages:

- Take your time. A driver who takes time for proper checks greatly reduces the chance of mistakes.
- Maintain a good routine.
- Check couplings and hoses for cleanliness and gasket condition.
- Check container for leakages and damage during mounting.
- Check the loading unit during connecting/disconnecting.

Operation Clean Sweep

In case of spills with **plastic pellets**, please report this spill immediately to your planner. Make use of Chapter 33 Operation Clean Sweep of this Driver Manual which gives you the instructions how to handle.

Cleaning

- Check all gaskets during preparation.
- Ensure all accesses are closed and sealed after cleaning.

Loading:

- Product in, air out.
- Check all unused accesses are closed.
- Perform pressure test if needed.
- Pay attention to the air line on top of liquid tanks.
- With multi-manlid tanks, check unused manlids.
- Compare tank capacity with load quantity.

Unloading:

- Ensure *product out and air in*.
- Ensure there is sufficient working space.
- Go through the entire procedure calmly in your mind before starting the unloading process — this helps you stay focused.
- Make sure the customer is also ready to begin the unloading; ask if necessary.
- Determine the maximum allowable unloading pressure — the customer decides this; ask if necessary.
- Determine the MAWP (*Maximum Allowed Working Pressure*) of the loading unit.
- Ensure no pressure can build up when switching on the compressor; otherwise, you won't be able to intervene in time.
- Always remain in the immediate vicinity of your loading/unloading unit during the unloading process.
- Monitor the pressure gauge; if the pressure does not rise, this may indicate a leakage (or a defective pressure gauge).
- Listen and look along the sides of the loading unit during pressure build-up — a leakage is often easier to detect this way.

In case of a leakage / spill:

- Immediately switch off the compressor or stop the customer's air supply.
- Release **all** pressure from the tank completely before attempting to fix the leakage — a gasket is either damaged or no longer in the correct position.
- **Never** try to tighten anything while the system is still under pressure. This is extremely dangerous if something unexpectedly breaks.

- Never fully open the discharge valve at once; open it slowly and check for leakages at all hose connections and couplings.
- Always report a leakage to your planner and the site coordinator. Take a photo so your planner can see the situation.
- Always clean up any spilled product, and do this in consultation. (Also think about cleaning your equipment so nothing spills during transport.)
- Place a bucket under the outlet when disconnecting the hose and discharge bend.
- In case of a leakage involving liquids, place a bucket under the leak (if it cannot be resolved).

A leakage is unpleasant, time-consuming, dangerous, harmful to the environment and the product, and causes reputational damage. Always check your equipment.

A good driver always checks equipment before starting work. Take responsibility.