

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS FOR RECEIVING, STORING, AND DISTRIBUTING
VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER

Vinyl chloride monomer is received by railroad tank car into a storage area located outside the boundaries of the plant proper. It is unloaded into a refrigerated sphere from which it is pumped to the consuming units.

Unloading is accomplished by equalizing the pressures in the tank car and the storage sphere and then applying vaporized vinyl chloride to the vapor space in the tank car. This provides positive suction pressure on the pump which transfers vinyl chloride to the storage sphere. After all the liquid has been removed from the tank car, a compressor pumps vinyl chloride vapors from the car to a condenser and the condensed liquid is then pumped to the sphere. The vapor pressure in the car is reduced to 5 psig, and the car is then returned to the vinyl chloride supplier for refilling.

The vinyl chloride in the sphere is maintained under its own vapor pressure (maximum of 29 psig) at a maximum temperature of 15°C by the use of refrigeration, with vinyl chloride serving as the refrigerant.

Transfer pumps and piping transfer vinyl chloride to the consuming units as required.

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SPECIAL FEATURES PROVIDED TO MINIMIZE
EXPOSURE OF PERSONNEL

General

1. The receiving and storage area is remote from the consuming units.
2. A high degree of automation is employed, so that there is little need for operators to be near the tank car or the sphere while unloading proceeds.
3. Nitrogen is not employed as a pressurizing medium, so there is very little venting to rid the system of inert gas during unloading or loading by the supplier.
4. Safety valve discharges and other vent streams are piped to a remote, elevated location for discharge.
5. All pumps handling vinyl chloride are provided with mechanical seals to minimize leakage.
6. Vent and drain valves not required for normal operation are maintained in closed position and plugged with pipe plugs.

Tank Cars

7. The tank cars are provided with dip tubes for top discharge only. The dip tubes are provided with excess-flow check valves; if the flow exceeds a pre-established value, the valve automatically closes.
8. The tank cars are provided with a tape liquid-level device, which eliminates the need for venting vinyl chloride in determining the liquid level in the car.

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2.

Sphere

9. The sphere is located in a separately diked area, with sufficient capacity to contain the entire contents of the sphere.
10. Lines leading into the sphere are provided with check valves, and discharge lines from the sphere are provided with excess-flow check valves.
11. The sphere and associated piping is insulated for 15°C maximum temperature; the insulation is such that it will not decompose if subjected to fire.
12. The sphere is provided with water spray protection.
13. The sphere is equipped with a refrigerated vent condenser (-20°C) through which inert gases are vented to the atmosphere.

Scavenging System

14. A scavenger compressor system is provided to remove vinyl chloride from lines or hoses which must be disconnected during loading or unloading operations. When scavenging is completed, such lines or hoses are purged with nitrogen to a remote vent stack.

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