

SAFETY Alert



07/2015

SOIL CONTAMINATION

DATE: July 2015

ISSUED BY: QHSE DEPARTMENT

OBJECT: SOIL CONTAMINATION WITH EPOXY COATING

DESCRIPTION:

A spill of epoxy coating material was detected on soil surrounding below-ground station pipework at a Valve station. It was subsequently discovered that the spill occurred during the application of the epoxy coating to station piping. Contamination was confined to the immediate area surrounding the station pipework and contamination of ground water systems did not occur.



POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

- Epoxy coating material is classified as dangerous for the environment. If contamination of ground water systems occurs, the epoxy can cause long term adverse effects in the aquatic environment and is toxic to aquatic organisms.

CAUSES

- A lack of knowledge and training of the coating crew with regard to the correct handling and disposal of the epoxy material;
- A lack of supervision and instructions to the coating crew subsequent to the application of the epoxy.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Operating methods:

- ✓ Contaminated area removed isolated and placed in bag for disposal as hazardous waste;
- ✓ Task supervisors to ensure proper supervision of activities under their control and to notify the HSE dept. prior to first usage of new products/materials;
- ✓ Use of impermeable sheet under the joint during coating to contain the spill.

Training:

- ✓ Sicim HSE dept. to communicate the product MSDS to all coating personnel and to ensure the prompt communication of MSDS for all products to the relevant crews;
- ✓ Refresher training to be provided to all site supervision to ensure proper hazard identification of products and recognition of product symbols;
- ✓ Safety Alert developed and toolbox training regarding the circumstances of this incident to be communicated to all coating personnel.