A Practical Approach for Improving Industry-Wide Reactive Chemical Hazard Management

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ABSTRACT

Numerous reactive chemical accidents have focused increasing attention on industry practices involving management of reactive chemical hazards. Over the past four years, we have worked with a variety of industry groups in helping to discover efficient ways for identifying, assessing, managing, and regulating (when necessary) activities involving the use of reactive chemicals. In addition, we have been involved with writing a CCPS concept book on improving process safety in toll manufacturing.

This paper will discuss OSHA’s proposed alternatives for regulating reactive chemicals. It will outline the range of good industry practices in place at many companies. We will discuss an integrated approach for “elevating and extending” reactive chemical hazard awareness and management practices across industry – including the “small guy” operations. This “solution” will be critically examined in light of lesson learned from several reactive chemical accidents that have occurred over the past few years.