

December 28, 2012
NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD

Explosion and Fire at Himeji Plant (#11)

NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD [Tokyo Stock Exchange - TOKSE:4114.T] (“NIPPON SHOKUBAI”) is deeply saddened by the loss of life resulting from the explosion and fire at the Himeji Plant on September 29 and extends its sincere condolences to family members. In addition, NIPPON SHOKUBAI extends its sincere apologies to the individuals who were injured by this accident and to the enormous problems this incident caused for the neighborhood of the plant and to other people associated with this incident.

NIPPON SHOKUBAI does its best to investigate causes of the accident with an Accident Investigation Committee with members of the academia and external specialists, and with an internal Safe Production Technology Division.

Available information as of December 28 is as follows;

1. Address and facilities

Acrylic acid-tank, NIPPON SHOKUBAI Himeji Plant
992-1 Aza-Nishioki, Okihama, Aboshi-ku, Himeji, Hyogo 671-1282, JAPAN

2. Time line

As a result of re-examination, time line is as follows:

September 29

ca.13:20	Confirmed white mist of acrylic acid-mist
ca.13:48--49	Call the fire department
ca.14:35	Explosion and fire at acrylic acid-tank
22:36	Fire under control

September 30

15:30	Fire extinguished
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3. Impact of the accident

*Casualties/Injured

The dead:	1 person (1 firefighter)
The serious injured:	5 persons (2 firefighters, 3 employees)
The moderate injured:	13 persons (8 firefighters, 1 police, 4 employees)
The mild injured:	18 persons (14 firefighters, 1 police, 3 employees)
Total:	37 persons

*Damage to facilities

Acrylic acid-tank, concerned, was badly damaged.

Surrounding facilities, racks, pipes, cables and so on are damaged.

4. Status of operations

NIPPON SHOKUBAI had received orders to suspend operation of the facilities of hazardous substances from the authority, and then received some lift of restrictions for some part of facilities in the plant. With the lift of restrictions, taking care of the plant's safety, NIPPON SHOKUBAI proceeds to re-start the operation of the production facilities for the products not derived from acrylic acid in order.

At this time, the following products' production facilities are in operation;

The underlined products are added after the last report.

Functional Chemicals

- Polymer for concrete admixture (AQUALOC, powder type)
- N-phenylmaleimide (IMILEX-P)
- Oxazoline-functional polymer (EPOCROS)
- Acrylic resins for paints and adhesives produced by Nippon Polymer Industries Co., Ltd., next to the NIPPON SHOKUBAI Himeji Plant
- Acrylic resins for optical materials (ACRYVIEWA)
- Resist polymers for color filter (ACRYCURE)
- Spherical fine particles (EPOSTAR)
- Silica particles (SEAHOSTAR)
- VEEA (UV/EB curable materials)

Environment & Catalysts

- Automobile catalysts
- De-NOx catalysts
- Dioxins decomposition catalysts
- Catalysts for catalytic wet oxidation wastewater treatment

5. Causes/Preventive measures

Causes of the accident are under investigation by authorities.

NIPPON SHOKUBAI does its best to investigate causes of the accident under the organization as follows;

*An Accident Investigation Committee, established on October 5

< academia and external specialists >

Masamitsu Tamura

Chairman of the Committee

Emeritus Professor, The University of Tokyo

Yasukazu Arai

Former Managing Director, The High Pressure Gas Safety Institute of Japan

Mitsuo Koshi

Research Professor, Institute of Engineering Innovation, School of Engineering,
The University of Tokyo

Masayoshi Nakamura

Professor, The Graduate School of Technology Management,
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

<NIPPON SHOKUBAI>

Yosuke Ogata

Representative Member of the Board, Senior Managing Executive Officer

Masao Kitano

Director, Safe Production Technology Division ,
President, Nisshoku Butsuryu Co., Ltd.

Hiroya Kobayashi

Director, Responsible Care Division

* An Internal Safe Production Technology Division, established on October 17

Meeting held

- #1 October 23, 2012
- #2 November 15, 2012
- #3 December 4, 2012
- #4 December 25, 2012

The Accident Investigation Committee held the above mentioned four meetings, and obtained certain results of direct causes of the accident and preventive measures. As a result of it, NIPPON SHOKUBAI will have a press conference in the near future. An outline of the conference will be informed as soon as it is decided.

Contact

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