

## Explosion and Fire at Himeji Plant (Interim Report of Accident Investigation Committee)

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 established an Accident Investigation Committee with members of the academia and external specialists (“the Committee”), which has been investigating causes of the accident.

The Committee obtained certain results about direct causes of the accident and preventive measures following four meetings, and completed an interim report.

NIPPON SHOKUBAI accepted the report which is attached below.

### 1. Location and Equipment Involved

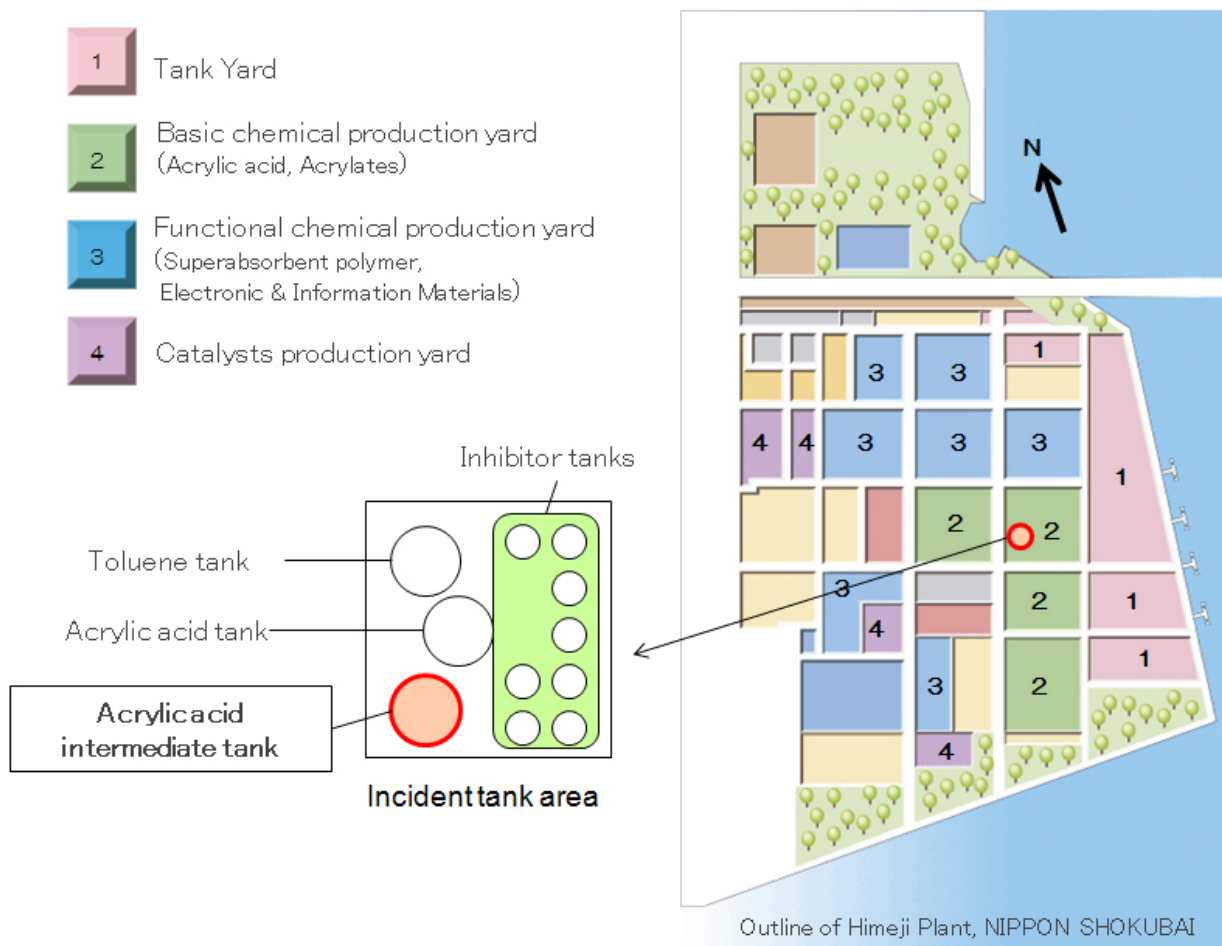
#### (1) Location

Himeji Plant, Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.

992-1 Aza Nishioki, Okihama, Aboshi-ku, Himeji, Hyogo, Japan

#### (2) Equipment involved

An intermediate tank in the acrylic acid production facility



## 2. Chronological description

September 29

ca.13:20	Confirmed white acrylic acid vapor
ca.13:48--49	Called 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. Damages

### (1) Casualties

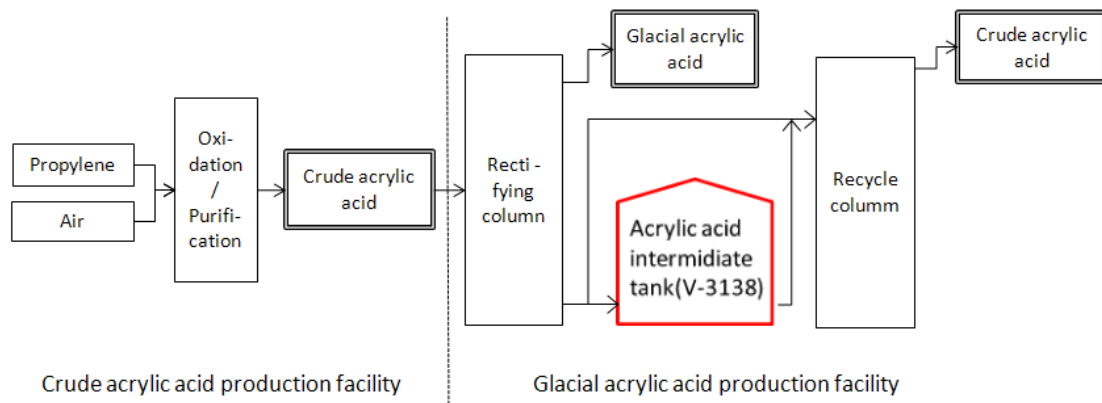
- Fatality: 1 (firefighter)
- Severely injured: 5 (2 firefighters and 3 employees)
- Moderately injured: 13 (8 firefighters, 1 police officer, and 4 employees)
- Lightly injured: 18 (14 firefighters, 1 police officer, and 3 employees)

Total: 37 persons

### (2) Property damage

- The tank involved was destroyed and its surrounding equipment, racks, piping, cables, etc., were damaged.

### < Overview of the Acrylic Acid Production Facility >



### <Organizations for investigation>

#### 1. Accident Investigation Committee, established on October 5

##### (1) Members

##### < 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

(2) Meetings held

#1 October 23, 2012

#2 November 15, 2012

#3 December 4, 2012

#4 December 25, 2012

2. Safe Production Technology Division, established on October 17

<Accident Investigation Committee Interim Report >

Please refer the attachment.

Contact

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