

Process Safety Forum

Safety Alert #010 – Issued on 10/10/2014

Vat Man-Way Door Failure

This safety alert is shared in order to promote learning and improve safety. You should seek appropriate guidance regarding the relevance, accuracy, and completeness of this alert to your circumstances prior to implementation.

Issue

A Vat Room Operator noticed that there was a slight weep of spirit from the man way door on Vat 6 during a Vat to Vat transfer, so he decided to tighten the locking mechanism by turning the wheel. On doing so, the mechanism failed, leading to the loss of mature whisky from the Vat man way door to the site containment system.

On examination, the threaded steel rod that secures the locking mechanism was found to be worn at the point of operation, (see photos). Vat 6 was installed on site in 1974, and is thought to still have the original locking mechanism in use. This Vat man door is opened/closed on average once per week/10 days.



Threaded bolt showing wear



Man Way door



Worn threaded bolt

Learning

The following actions should be considered:

Companies are encouraged to carry out an inspection of these types of bolts and instigate a regular inspection regime.

Further Consideration

None

The Process Safety Forum has been set up to provide an industry association platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across sectors, to influence our stakeholders (including the Regulators), and to drive the process safety management agenda. The Process Safety Forum consists of representatives from UKPIA, TSA, CIA, OGUK, CBA, RSSB, ENA, ECIA, UKLPG, BAMA, EIG, UKOPA, SWA, SDF, and MPA.

The website is www.p-s-f.org.uk. For further details contact: PSF.Secretary@gmail.com.