Unloading Methylenediphenyl Diisocyanate (MDI) Rail Cars

1. Preparation for Unloading
During delivery, consider the following:

- Unloaders must be trained (49 CFR §172.700)
- Review unloading procedure
- Locate and check safety shower and eyewash
- Secure rail car and rail track (49 CFR §173.31(g))
- Restric access to unloading area
- Verify that the correct receiving tank is being used and is in good condition
- Verify that receiving tank can hold contents of rail car
- Record start level in receiving tank

2. Hookup
During hookup, consider the following:

- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) specified in product safety data sheet (SDS)
- Verify that hoses, gaskets and fittings are in good condition
- Verify connection to proper receiving tank
- Secure unloading connections

3. Unloading
During unloading, consider the following:

- Monitor hoses, fittings, and piping for leaks
- Monitor temperature, pressure, and level in receiving tank
- Maintain positive pressure on rail car
- Immediately clean up spills in accordance with the SDS
- Consult SDS and facility emergency response plan
- Call CHEMTREC for 24 hour emergency assistance 1-800-424-9300

4. Returning Empty Car
When returning empty rail car, consider the following:

- Record stop level in receiving tank
- Maintain positive pad on rail car
- Do not open manway
- Ensure all plugs/caps are secured and wrench tight
- Close and secure top hatch cover
- Apply security seal
- No product residue on outside of rail car (49 CFR §173.24(b)(4))
- Complete unloading checklist

For additional information see the suppliers SDS and the Center for the Polyurethanes Industry’s (CPI) guidance document, “Guidelines for Receiving and Unloading MDI” available at www.polyurethane.org.

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