



Bitumen Emulsion – Safe Working Procedures

'Working with bitumen emulsions' - what activities does this include?

- Receiving bitumen deliveries into bulk tanks (Acmar, Phoenix or MST tanks)
- Collecting bitumen from suppliers depots
- Transferring bitumen from bulk tanks into other storage tanks (combined sprayers etc.)
- Completing maintenance or repair work on any bitumen tanks, valves or pipe work systems

SAFE WORKING GUIDELINES ARE OUTLINED BELOW

- Only competent, authorised personnel are to receive bitumen deliveries, transfer bitumen from bulk tanks and complete maintenance or repair on bitumen storage or transfer equipment.
- When receiving deliveries of bitumen – or transferring bitumen from bulk tanks – always ensure the tank receiving the material has sufficient space to hold the volume of bitumen to be delivered.
- When working at height on any bitumen tank safe access must be used and safety rails in place at all times. Additionally, a safety lanyard may be required to ensure safe working at height.
- In addition to the 'standard' PPE – safety boots and high visibility clothing, the following PPE should be used at all times receiving bulk bitumen deliveries:
 - Safety helmet with full face visor
 - Gloves and long sleeved clothing to minimise risk of skin contact with bitumen
 - **ENSURE THE DELIVERY DRIVER IS ALSO WEARING THE CORRECT PPE AT ALL TIMES**
- In addition to the 'standard' PPE – safety boots & high visibility clothing - the following PPE should be used at all times transferring bitumen (e.g. into combined spray lorries):
 - Eye protection – close fitting goggles should be worn at all times to minimise risk to eyes
 - Gloves & long sleeved clothing to minimise risk of skin contact with bitumen
- All maintenance or repair works on bitumen tanks, valves or pipework systems should be subject to a task specific Risk Assessment before starting work. Additional control measures may be required to complete the work safely and these must be completed before starting work.
- Never allow any other persons to be in close proximity when receiving deliveries or transferring bitumen. Take responsibility and make sure all persons are clear of the area.
- When collecting bitumen from suppliers depots always ensure you understand the site rules and follow them at all times. Additional PPE should be worn – Safety helmet with full face visor and fire retardant overalls. Ensure you have the correct PPE with you before traveling to collect the bitumen.
- After transfer or filling tanks ensure all tank hatches are **SECURELY FASTENED**.
- Report all incidents involving bitumen emulsion – accidents, near misses, spillages etc. – as soon as reasonably practicable.
- **If you are receiving, collecting or transferring bitumen ensure you follow all safe working procedures at all times.**
- **If you observe a delivery driver or a colleague not following the safe working procedures – take responsibility & do something about it!**

THIS GUIDANCE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE SPRAYING OR SPREADING OF BITUMEN EMULSIONS. ALWAYS REFER TO AND FOLLOW AT ALL TIMES THE TASK SPECIFIC SAFE WORKING PRACTICES WHEN COMPLETING THESE, OR OTHER, TASKS INVOLVING WORK WITH BITUMEN EMULSIONS.