



SAFETY LESSONS LEARNT BULLETIN

Wrong chemical delivery prevented

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Vigilance and use of the chemical delivery process by a site operator prevented hydrochloric acid being delivered into a sodium hydroxide tank which potentially could have created an explosive reaction.

What happened?

- Intermediate bulk containers (IBC's) of sodium hypochlorite and sodium hydroxide orders arrived on the same lorry
- The sodium hypochlorite delivery was completed successfully
- The paperwork for the sodium hydroxide was correct
- The cross reference of the paperwork to the IBC on the lorry identified an IBC of hydrochloric acid **not** sodium hydroxide
- The transfer of the chemical from second IBC did not go ahead
- The reaction between sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid gives off large amounts of heat and has the potential to boil explosively, especially when large volumes are mixed together quickly



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