

AQUA AMMONIA GENERAL SAFETY & HANDLING

EQUIPMENT

Systems should be all steel construction, free from copper, copper alloy, aluminum or galvanized pieces. The internal trim of valves, pumps and meters should be specified as all steel.

At normal liquid temperatures, vapor pressures are not high, allowing schd. 40 pipe and fittings to be used.

Each storage tank should be equipped with either a pressure/vacuum relief valve or a vented vapor scrubber to prevent vapor loss and pressure build-up.

TANK AND PIPING REPAIR

Before attempting to enter any storage tank certain precautions should be made. Adhere to all confined space entry compliance requirements.

Ammonia vapor can reach an explosive limit in an "empty" tank. Special cleaning procedures should be followed before any welding or cutting is attempted on any tank. Even though the vapor concentration is initially below the explosive limit, heat from cutting or welding may liberate residual ammonia.

MIXING

Because ammonia is such a strong base, and may have vapor pressure, it should not be indiscriminately mixed with other materials, particularly acidic solutions. The resulting reaction can violently evolve large amounts of heat and/or gases. If such mixtures are contemplated without previous experience, technical assistance should be requested from experienced personnel.

Aqua ammonia has applications for fertilizer blends and is widely used as a nitrogen source. Aqua ammonia is used in industry for neutralization, as a cleaner or as a chemical reagent, and many other specific uses.

SPILLS

Spills should be isolated and confined to prevent discharge into drains, sewers or waterways. Stay upwind and away from the spill unless wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus and full protective clothing. After containment, the spills should be flushed or pumped into appropriate containers for reuse or disposal in accordance with applicable local/state/federal regulations. Loading areas should have containment pads that drain to a holding pond or tank.

WARNING SIGNS

Aqua ammonia (ammonium hydroxide) falls under DOT classification *CORROSIVE*, and requires correct placards on shipping containers. (UN 2672)

Safety warning signs located at valves or load out points are recommended for each storage and transport tank.

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