

The following is a list of recommendations from the American Chemistry Council's Region 1 Rail Task Group:

Top 10 Items for Railroad Issues

1. Establish, document, communicate and implement
 - a company wide securement policy with defined practices
 - a company wide preventive maintenance program for tank cars
 - a procedure for tank car customers to report poor securement, hard to operate valves and other fitting problems
 - a company wide tank care securement training program.
2. After loading, leak test the car by applying at least 10 psig of pressure over the maximum estimated transportation pressure. All valves, packing gland nuts, closure and flanges should be checked using leak detection solution or ultrasonic instrument. After completing the leak test, pressure should be released or reduced.

If pressure test is impractical or unsafe, the car should be held and re-inspected after twenty-four (24) hours and valves and fittings re-tightened as needed to ensure proper securement.

3. Perform proper pre-loading and post-loading inspections.
4. Perform extra inspection of valves/domes for tightness (one of the leading causes of leaks/spills in rail and transportation incidents).
5. Review shipping papers to ensure proper data is present.
6. Ensure that the Emergency Response Plan is:
 - Corrected and updated for plant site and transportation related release.
 - Exercised annually.

Ensure that emergency contacts for the railroad are correct

7. Ensure rail lines are clear, switches are aligned properly, and car brakes are released before moving cars.
8. Ensure that all railroad personnel that enter the plant site are properly trained/oriented (especially for emergency actions).
9. Ensure that all rail crossings within the plant site are properly marked with warning signs.
10. Always have plant personnel accompany rail crews when they are operating within the plant site.