

# The Sulphur Institute

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## Molten Sulphur Rail Tank Car Guidance

The Sulphur Institute (TSI) and the sulphur industry recognize that molten sulphur rail tank cars with formed, solid sulphur on ladders and handrails, tank car marks and stencils, and product identification panels presents a challenge to those responsible for handling rail tank cars and first responders for rapid and accurate identification in the event of an accident. In order to minimize occurrence of molten sulphur spills, there must be cooperation between shippers (suppliers) and customers (consumers) to identify locations where molten sulphur spills occur, and improve procedures to prevent future spills. Shippers and customers can provide valuable information to assist in identifying recurring locations of molten sulphur spills and take preventative action.

The presence of an excessive amount of formed, solid sulphur on molten sulphur rail tank car safety appliances, marks, or stencils displays a negative image of our industry to the public. Neither safety concerns nor negative public perceptions are acceptable to the sulphur industry and action is necessary to prevent molten sulphur spills and remedy any safety concerns.

To accomplish the objectives outlined, the following steps are prepared for guidance, along with attached photos showing examples and appropriate actions.

- I. If a shipper identifies a molten sulphur rail tank car with a spill that represents a safety concern, the shipper will:
  - report the molten sulphur spill to management
  - arrange to remove the molten sulphur spill on site if permitted and safe to do soIf for some reason removal cannot be accomplished on site, the shipper will arrange for offsite cleaning at an appropriate facility
  
- II. If a customer identifies a molten sulphur rail tank car with a spill that represents a safety hazard, the customer will:
  - report the molten sulphur spill to management and the rail tank car shipper
  - be encouraged by the shipper to remove the molten sulphur spill on siteIf for some reason the customer cannot remove or arrange for removal on site, work with the shipper to arrange for offsite cleaning at an appropriate facility
  
- III. If a significant spill is identified on safety appliances, marks, or stencils of a loaded molten sulphur rail tank car, it will be tagged (to include at a minimum, the date, location, and the phrase, "DO NOT LOAD") to go to home shop after unloading at destination and its condition reported to the rail tank car shipper
  
- IV. Shipper and Customer Report:
  - Each shipper and customer is strongly encouraged to share information about all spills and experiences in resolving incidents with particular focus on elimination of spills on safety appliances, marks, or stencils via email to [transport@sulphurinstitute.org](mailto:transport@sulphurinstitute.org). This information will be aggregated and presented for discussion during TSI's Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) and North American Transportation Regulations and Logistics (NATRL) Working Group meetings.

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**Example of acceptable residue until next shopping**



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### Example of need to clean residue on safety appliance



Spill on Safety Appliance

### Example of need to clean significant spill

