

Foam manufacturer's prompt reaction to suspected contaminated foam

After warnings of possible contaminated chemicals from a subcontractor and thus a sudden, unexpected Force Majeure situation, BPI has chosen to immediately shut down foam production in the affected units and send employees home until the situation has been investigated.

The reaction from the foam manufacturer in South West Jutland was immediate once it was learned that foam blocks with an elevated content of a particular substance had been received from a subcontractor. The substance is the so-called DCB, suspected of being harmful to the health in amounts exceeding the approved limits for the product.

According to information from BPI's subcontractor, the limits may have been exceeded for 5 foam qualities. Therefore, BPI decided to send production workers who were in direct or indirect contact with these foams home. Thus, employees from three departments in Denmark were sent home – and the same applied to the Polish plant, which is operated by the same standards as those in the Danish factory.

Both subcontractor and BPI are now in the process of identifying exactly where and to what extent the different foam qualities have been distributed, so that, as soon as possible, they may inform and, if necessary, recall the delivered foam from affected customers and partners.

BPI was among the first in Europe to switch to the more environmentally friendly, MDI-based foam – but an ever-decreasing part of the production remains TDI-based. It is this limited quantity which has now been affected by the raw material problem.

Not only in relation to our surroundings, but also in relation to employees, the CEO – Jesper Brix – takes the situation very seriously. "When it comes to our employees, we take no chances. We have a clean production and take great care as regards safety and environment. But we must also remember that this is about chemistry in different configurations and dosages. Therefore, we take every conceivable precaution where there is doubt, uncertainty or risk in any way. Safety and security is our absolute top priority – regardless of whether we are dealing with our customers or our employees", says the CEO, who cannot yet say anything about when production will be back to normal. "Right now, it is important to contain all damage and knock-on effects until everything has been examined and all necessary steps have been taken. We expect to get the situation resolved and under control within a very short time, and all affected customers will be contacted as soon as possible and continually kept updated on developments", concludes Jesper Brix.

Currently, the BPI subcontractor in question is in the process of carrying out a series of inspections and measurements to identify the extent of the problem. BPI monitors the matter closely while conducting various measurements as well, and is already in the process of contacting affected customers and partners.

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*) BPI is a well-known pioneer in the industry, and has been a major supplier of customised foam solutions for building, construction and engineering industries as well as large, recognised, high-end furniture manufacturers since 1971.

jb/sfe/10.10.2017