

Dispersant Stockpiles – Managed and Response Ready

Stockpiles of dispersant are now abundant and globally distributed. OSROs, national agencies and energy companies have over time purchased and now store large volumes of dispersant, of which are an extensive financial asset. The life expectancy of these assets are as of yet unknown, until regular efficacy testing identifies local trends over time. To ensure dispersant longevity, good practice considerations should be adopted by the stockpile manager.

Mismanagement of dispersant stockpiles by either substandard dispersant storage containers, or failure to follow manufacturers' storage recommendations, will adversely affect the dispersant efficacy and useable life of the dispersant and ultimately response effectiveness. Solvent loss, oxidation, residue formation, inability to simply open a container and efficacy reduction have all been witnessed where dispersant has been incorrectly managed.

Stockpiles also require to be response ready. Suitable stockpile support equipment will assist the maintenance of the stock, provide spill mitigation arrangements in the event of stockpile relocation and support the stockpile during a response situation.

Recommendations by industry experts, organic chemists and container manufacturers as well as an understanding of global stockpile anomalies have provided a clear understanding of how dispersant should be contained, stored, managed and made response ready. This panel session provides examples of containment issues, the considerations and the standard to which dispersant stockpiles ought to be managed - ensuring asset longevity and response readiness.