



WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal)

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Memo No. 295-7/WPBD-Cont(303)/98

Date: 14/05/2013

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, the incident of Chlorine leakage occurred on 14.03.2013 at around 15-45 P.M at K. P. Singh Road, Kolkata-700002.

AND WHEREAS, inspecting the official of the **WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD** (hereinafter referred to as the Board) visited the incidence site on 15.03.2013. The inspecting official also visited the Chitpur Police Station. The information gathered during inspection is depicted below:

The vehicle bearing number JH05AK7231 which was carrying the chlorine cylinders was hired by **M/s Associated Road Carriers Limited**, a transport company having its office at **9, K. P. Singh Road, Kol – 2**. The said carriage was transporting six empty and defective Chlorine gas cylinders and one filled chlorine gas cylinder (containing about 66.3 kg Chlorine gas as reported by police personnel of local police station) along with other stationary goods, machine parts etc. from **M/s. Durgapur Chemicals Limited, Durgapur, Dist.-Burdwan** to **M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Haldia Refinery, Haldia, Dist.-Purba Medinipur**. The vehicle halted at the above mentioned address for further loading of goods on that day. During loading operation the porters broke the knob of the filled Chlorine gas cylinder and Chlorine gas was released at around 15.45 PM. On getting the information, the police personnel along with Fire Brigade personnel reached the spot. Fire Brigade used water jet to control and disperse the Chlorine gas from that affected site. Approx. 56 persons present there fell sick by inhaling Chlorine gas and were hospitalized. Driver of the said carriage escaped from the spot immediately after the incident. There was no safety arrangement observed within the carriage carrying chlorine gas. The local police station filed an FIR against the said transport company.

AND WHEREAS, **M/s. Durgapur Chemicals Limited** and **M/s Associated Road Carriers Limited** were called for a hearing at the head office of the Board on 17/04/2012 for accidental leakage of chlorine gas.

AND WHEREAS, the representatives of **M/s. Durgapur Chemicals Ltd.** appearing in the hearing submitted that the empty cylinders were provided to them by **M/s. IOC Ltd., Haldia** for re-filling of chlorine gas. After physical checking, only one cylinder was re-filled and rest six cylinders were returned in empty condition. The transporter was engaged by **M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., M/s. IOC Ltd., Haldia Refinery, Haldia** and the cylinders (both empty and filled) were despatched from **M/s. Durgapur Chemicals Ltd** on 09.03.2013. The representatives of **M/s. Durgapur Chemicals Ltd** claimed that release of chlorine gas was occurred from one of the empty cylinders (some residual gas is always left in the cylinder) due to breakage of valve while loading/unloading operation at the godown of the transporter.

The representatives of **M/s. Associated Road Carriers Ltd.** agreed that they do not possess licence/registration from Motor Vehicle Authority for carrying hazardous/dangerous chemicals.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the above mentioned facts **M/s. Durgapur Chemicals Ltd., Durgapur** and **M/s. IOC Ltd., Haldia Refinery** are directed to strictly abide by the provisions of the Manufacture, Storage & Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and amendments thereafter. They should ensure that transport of hazardous/dangerous chemicals is in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules,1989 framed under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act,1988 and the transporter, **M/s. Associated Road Carriers Ltd., K. P. Singh Road, Kolkata-700002** is directed not to carry any hazardous/dangerous chemicals without obtaining licence/registration from Motor Vehicle Authority.

The Environmental Engineer, Haldia Regional Office & Environmental Engineer, Durgapur Regional Office of the State Board are requested to keep vigil over the respective industries and if the industries are found to violate the direction of the Board stricter regulatory order will be issued.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Operation & Execution Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board