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HSE Safety Alert: 1st March 2021.

Failure of a road tanker pressure relief valve.

Introduction

This safety alert is aimed at haulage contractors, users of tank containers and road tankers, companies servicing pressure/ vacuum relief valves and authorised inspection bodies contracted to verify the functioning of these valves.

Tank containers and road tankers used for flammable, corrosive and toxic liquids and gases will normally have a valve fitted to prevent damage to the tank from changes in the internal pressure. Haulage containers used for less hazardous liquids and gases may also have a valve.

Following a road incident in April 2020, investigations by Cleveland Police and HSE found evidence that a pressure/vacuum relief valve, originally manufactured by Fort Vale Engineering Ltd, had been modified by a third party. The valve cap had a nut welded to the top, most likely to allow it to be serviced without the use of a special tool to remove the valve cap. The unauthorised modification prevented the valve's safe operation.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/failure-road-tanker-pressure.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tanker-safety-alert&utm_content=safety-alert-5-mar-21