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PREFACE

Vinyl acetate is a high volume chemical that is an essential ingredient in the manufacture of many industrial and consumer products. When handled properly, vinyl acetate can be stored, transported and otherwise managed safely. However, if vinyl acetate is not properly managed, it can pose a serious fire hazard and a serious health hazard, requiring immediate medical attention if workers are exposed to high concentrations.

The Vinyl Acetate Council (VAC) has developed this Safe Handling Guide to promote the safe and responsible use of vinyl acetate. Information contained in this Guide was developed based on procedures recommended by members of the VAC and reflects best practices on the safe handling, storage and transport of vinyl acetate. This Guide supersedes a 1994 edition entitled “Vinyl Acetate: A Guide To Safety and Handling.” The VAC will post update notifications to this Guide on its web site at www.vinylacetate.org.

The Guide is intended for properly trained workers that may come in contact with vinyl acetate, as well as safety and health professionals, including individuals responsible for plant safety. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR SUPPLIER’S SAFETY DATA SHEET, PRODUCT LABEL AND OTHER SAFE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MOST CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS. These documents should be consulted before handling vinyl acetate. Additionally, there are numerous federal, state and local regulations that need to be followed.

The Guide begins with a general overview of the properties of vinyl acetate including its hazards. Sections II, III and IV provide day-to-day operational information on how to minimize exposure, protect against releases, accidents, spills and how to respond in the event of an accident. Section V presents information relevant to the bulk transport of vinyl acetate including issues concerning unloading tank cars and storage tanks. Appendix I provides information for use in the design of facilities and operations to reduce the probability of an over exposure, release or spill. Appendix II contains emergency contact information. The Guide also contains several attachments including a list of the acronyms and abbreviations (Attachment A), an overview of hazard and handling information (Attachment B) and a table of general properties (Attachment C).

No warranty or guarantee, either expressed or implied, is made with respect to any or all of the content of this document and neither the VAC nor its members assume any legal responsibility. While the VAC believes that the information contained in this Guide is current and accurate, it is not intended as a statement of legal requirements. It is the responsibility of all persons handling vinyl acetate to respect proprietary rights and observe all existing laws. Consult with legal counsel and/or appropriate government authorities to ensure compliance with local, regional, national and international laws and regulations.

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