



SAFETY ALERT

September 20, 2023

Dear Valued Customer:

On January 24, 2020, an accidental release of propylene accumulated and exploded inside a building at Watson Grinding and Manufacturing Co. (“Watson Grinding”) in Houston, Texas. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (“CSB”) conducted an investigation and issued an Investigation Report, which is available at https://www.csb.gov/assets/1/6/watson_final_report_2023-06-29.pdf.

WESTERN encourages all customers to develop and implement effective process safety management systems as part of their own internal safety programs. Among other things, development and implementation of effective process safety management systems can help reduce the potential for, and assist in preventing, incidents involving, and harms from, the consequences of accidental or unintentional releases of gases. The CSB determined that Watson Grinding’s lack of a comprehensive process safety management program (including the absence of critical process safety information, a hazard assessment of Watson Grinding’s propylene process, a mechanical integrity program, a management of change review, and written operating procedures) contributed to the cause of the accidental release of propylene that accumulated and exploded at Watson Grinding.

You are obviously responsible for, and in the best position to provide for, the safe handling, storage, and use of gases at your facilities. We strongly encourage you to develop and implement effective process safety management systems. Resources available to you include the Compressed Gas Association’s Pamphlet P-1, *Safe Handling of Compressed Gases*; the Compressed Gas Association’s Pamphlet P-86, *Guideline for Process Safety Management*; and the Center for Chemical Safety’s *Guidelines For Risk Based Process Safety*. Please contact your WESTERN representative if you have any questions in connection with this safety alert.