

Regulatory Initiatives in the United States With Regard to Reactive Chemicals

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ABSTRACT

In the United States, the question of regulating reactive chemicals has received a lot of attention in the recent past. This issue had gained a lot of motivation because of the number of chemical reactivity-related incidents in the past two decades and the purported gaps in existing regulations that failed to provide the protection to the workers as well as the public against this hazard.

The initiative of regulating chemical reactivity management and practice is facing another controversy over the approaches and methodologies to be applied in developing these regulations. Over the years, chemical reactivity has proven to be a multi-faceted problem. As a result, any regulations or guidelines must address this issue on a more fundamental basis. The existing knowledge of reactive hazards is not being effectively applied.

Several approaches of regulating chemical reactivity had been proposed. Evaluation of these approaches is still undergoing. However, it is agreed that reactive chemicals, if regulated, should follow an approach that is effective and practical.