Safe transport of chemicals by rail

EC Conference on Railway Safety: The Way Forward
Brussels, 8 September 2009
Introducing Cefic

European Chemical Industry Council

- Founded in 1972
- Forum and voice of the European chemical industry, “from bulk to specialties”
- Brussels based office of 150 people working with over 4,000 industry experts across the chemical industry
Rail transport is vital for the chemical industry

- More than 15% of total chemical transport by rail

- Rail transport plays a key role in connecting chemical clusters, ports and customers

- Rail transport is a safe and sustainable mode of transport with a low carbon footprint
Responsible Care

Voluntary initiative of the global Chemical Industry

« Responsible Care is the worldwide chemical industry’s commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of Health, Safety and Environment performance of its products and processes and to openness in communication about its activities and achievements. »
Logistics Stewardship
“Responsible Care along the logistics chain”

The responsible management of the safety, environmental and security aspects of the transport and handling of chemical products throughout the logistics chain, from loading point to final destination.

- All parties in the logistics chain have a role to play
- There must be a cascading of responsibilities in the logistics chain
- Each party must have a risk management system in place
Cefic’s Objectives in Logistics

- Ensure that chemical transport & logistics remain sustainable
- Promote high safety, security and environmental standards, supporting the chemical industries’ Responsible Care Programme
- Develop and promote industry best practices
- Ensure that transport regulations remain in line with industry best practice
What Cefic has already achieved in general

- Promotion of Best Practices
  - Management practices
  - Equipment
  - Human behaviour
- Safety and Quality Assessment Systems (SQAS) for Logistics Service Providers
- European Transport Emergency Response Scheme
- Learning from accidents database
Specific initiatives undertaken by Cefic to improve rail safety standards

- Guidelines for design, construction and testing of rail tank cars
- SQAS assessment schemes for
  - Railway Operators (‘rail carriers’)
  - Maintenance Workshops of Rail Tank Cars
SQAS for Railway Operators

Specific risk areas covered:

- Equipment maintenance
- Behaviour Based Safety
- Security
- Interface with the Infrastructure Managers
- Operations in marshalling yards
- Management of operational staff
- Traffic control
- Subcontracting

All major European railway companies have been SQAS assessed.
SQAS for Maintenance Workshops of Rail Tank Cars (RTC)

Specific risk areas covered:

- Training of operational personnel
- Operating procedures (work permits, exposure to products)
- Waste management
- Equipment maintenance
- Instructions to operational staff
- Documentation of the maintenance work carried out
Rail freight safety: the way forward

- Rail transport remains an important mode of transport for the European chemical industry
- Rail is a safe and sustainable mode of transport
- All stakeholders should co-operate to further improve the rail safety performance
- Cefic will support any initiative that effectively contributes to this objective