Development of a hazardous material selection procedure for the chemical accident response manual

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AbstractAfter the accidental hydrogen-fluoride leak in Gu-mi city, Korea, the Korean government revised its laws on chemical management. The hazardous chemical management laws were strengthened to meet the legal standards, and now the selection of Accident Precaution Chemicals (APCs) is required. This study introduces a novel hazardous material selection procedure for industrial chemical management. The proposed method consists of screening, scoring, rating, and selection procedures. Among the 4,994 hazardous chemicals in the database, 1,362 chemicals were selected through the screening process. The selected chemicals were classified as flammable, explosive/reactive, and toxic materials, and in the final step, flash point, heat of combustion, and toxicity of these chemicals were considered in chemical ratings. According to the ratings, 100 toxic materials were selected and used to modify the safety management manual development software, currently used in Korean companies that deal with hazardous chemicals. The developed algorithm and software are expected to greatly aid plants that deal with hazardous materials.

Keywords: Chemical Management Manual, Chemical Classification, Hazardous Material Management, Accident Precaution, Accident Response

INTRODUCTION

The risk of an accident in the chemical industry grows with an increase in the number of chemical plants. Especially, due to the nature of a chemical plant, one accident can cause terrible damage. Therefore, the importance of risk management in chemical plants is very significant. In terms of risk management, there are many approaches to take into consideration the role between human and non-human factors [1], or contribute to the collection and management of existing quantitative data [2]. Although measures to reduce damage from chemical accidents include prevention, preparation, response, and recovery, it is best to prevent accidents in advance.

Accident prevention initiatives continue to be made not only in Korea but around the world. In China, among four categories, which are particularly serious accident (PSA), major accident (MA), serious accident (SA), and ordinary accident (OA), efforts for prevention of PSA and MA are reported [3]. Due to ongoing research and regulation, China's PSA and MA are decreasing. Life cycle approach is also used for accident prevention [4]. This method considers process design lifecycle, which leads to hazard identification and determines accident contributors. Based on this approach, design and operational errors could be identified earlier and appropriate control at sources actions could be taken as accident prevention measures. In Korea, recent efforts have been made to reorganize the

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government, enact relevant legislation, and to change the corporate culture to better respond to chemical accidents [5-7]. In particular, efforts have been made to thoroughly regulate chemical substances at the management stage.

In the USA, OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) standard and EPA's Risk Management Plan (RMP) regulation is widely used [8,9]. PSM sets requirements for facilities which handle hazardous chemicals and aim to protect workers. It is designed to help prevent unexpected accidents like toxic chemical release, reactive and flammable liquids or gasses. The PSM standard mainly applies to manufacturing industries like chemical, transportation equipment, and fabricated metal products. The key provision of PSM is process hazard analysis (PHA). Employers must identify hazardous chemicals in their process and develop prevention plan for releases of hazardous chemicals. PSM has 13 other elements besides PHA, and they must be integrated into both planning and operations at a facility; 14 elements are shown in Table 1.

RMP is intended to protect the environment and the community from accidents. RMP regulation requires facilities that use haz-

Table 1. PHA elements

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ardous chemicals to develop an RMP plan. The plan identifies the potential effects of a chemical accident, steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident, and spells out emergency response procedures should an accident occur. Facilities that have more than the limit of regulated substances in the process must comply with EPA's risk management program regulations. This requirement requires the owner or operator of the facility to implement a risk management program and submit an RMP to the EPA. The program should include hazard assessment, prevention program, and emergency response program. RMP rule is broken into three programs based on the threat posed to the community and environment. Many requirements of the RMP program are the same as those of the PSM. The coverage between the two standards is overlapping, but not complete. In the Unites states, guidelines are in place to ensure RMP and PSM programs in different environments.

The Seveso directives are the main EU legislation dealing specifically with the control of on-shore major accident hazards involving dangerous substances. The Seveso III directive came into force on 1 June 2015, replacing the Seveso II directive. They control major accident hazards involving dangerous substances [10]. Current European and UK chemical classification is set out in the dangerous substances directive and dangerous preparations directive. These directives are implemented in UK by the Chemicals Hazard Information and Packaging for supplying regulations (CHIP). CHIP is well known to chemical suppliers, and many chemical users and consumers are accustomed to the orange and black hazard symbols that have appeared in chemical products for many years.

As shown above, many other countries are trying to prevent chemical accidents with a risk management program. It helps to prevent chemical accidents and improves risk management in a facility. Since there are various types of accidents in the chemical industry, it is important to develop a detailed management system. Accidents in the chemical industry can be classified into fires, explosions, and leaks. Fires are the most common accidents, followed by explosions. In the case of toxic substance leakage, there are characteristics that can lead to secondary damage [11]. Once a chemical leakage accident takes place, it causes enormous human and material damage. It also affects the health, environment and society of residents depending on the severity level [12]. Flixborough, Bhopal, and Seveso disaster began with a chemical leakage accident. Hydrogen fluoride leakage accident in Gu-mi is a representative case of a chemical leakage accident in Korea [5]. Such leakage accidents cause enormous damage to human life and also cause secondary damage like fire and explosion, so chemical leakage risk management is very important.

As there are numerous types of chemical substances, it is impossible to control all chemical substances. Therefore, the control substance selection process must be preceded by a management system, which is a necessary process to improve the management efficiency and to preferentially select substances that need management. The first consideration while setting up a controlled substance is the environment in which it should be handled. The type and amount of substances handled by different countries or regions as well as the rules governing them are different. Therefore, substance selection must be carried out according to the regulations and laws of the relevant countries.

There are many ways to select the materials, and substance selections for management are actively carried out not only on chemical substances but also in environmental pollution related fields [13]. A data prioritization method by sample analysis is provided in advance [14]. In general, the substance classification method depends on the physical properties of a given substance [15]. After appropriate criteria for each purpose are set, each item should be rated. Then, the calculated scores can be added together to prioritize the scores in ascending order so that the relative impacts can be compared [13,16].

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a system developed by the UN for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labelling of chemicals globally [17,18]. It is known as the UN GHS purple book, and defines physical, health and environmental hazards of chemicals and harmonized classification criteria. The GHS purple book is updated frequently, and the latest edition was revised in 2017 [19]. This system has been developed to unify international trade and information delivery by unifying the worldwide MSDS technology method, which was different from each other in terms of notation. There are 17 classes of physical hazards, 10 classes of health hazards, and 2 classes of environmental hazards [19]. The GHS classification criteria are used for many studies which deal with chemicals. The positive effect of its implication is studied in South Africa [20]. It is used for the selection of the reference chemicals for hazard identification of eye irritating chemicals [21]. Chemical hazardous liquid waste classification method is also suggested based on lower heating value and on both water and pollutant content of the residues [22]. Hazard study in unconventional oil and gas operation is also based on GHS classification [23].

Previous studies suggested numerous classification methods and classified cases for chemicals, and these methods help manage hazardous chemicals well. In Korea, a web-based chemical management system was developed in 2011 [24], which deals with hazardous chemicals. However, maintenance has not been done well since the management system was developed. Therefore, the system needs to be updated, and new chemicals need to be selected. This study aims to construct additional data for efficient hazardous chemical management to add to the existing management substances. We propose three material selection stages and set the selection criteria using these stages. Materials selected by the suggested procedure are used to update the chemical accident response manual (CARM) development software.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Accident Precaution Chemicals (APCs) Background

Chemicals are used not only in industry but also in various fields such as agriculture and manufacturing [25]. In the case of chemical industrial complexes, it is likely to lead to a series of accidents because they handle various materials and are concentrated [26]. Chemical management is important owing to the increasing demand for domestic chemicals, which has gradually increased the scale of potential damage. As the chemical industry develops, efforts should be made in terms of its management [27]. In many countries, management substances are selected and managed ac-

Table 2. Accident Precaution Chemicals (APCs)

| ID | Chemical name | ID | Chemical name |
|----------------|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Formaldehyde | 50 | Hydrogen sulfide |
| $\overline{2}$ | Methyl hydrazine | 51 | Arsine |
| 3 | Formic acid | 52 | Chlorosulfonic acid |
| 4 | Methanol | 53 | Phosphine |
| 5 | Benzene | 54 | Phosphorus oxychloride |
| 6 | Methyl chloride | 55 | Chlorine dioxide |
| 7 | Methylamine | 56 | Diborane |
| 8 | Hydrogen cyanide | 57 | Nitric oxide |
| 9 | Vinyl chloride | 58 | Nitromethane |
| 10 | Carbon disulfide | 59 | Ammonium nitrate |
| 11 | Ethylene oxide | 60 | Hexamine |
| 12 | Phosgene | 61 | Hydrogen peroxide |
| 13 | Trimethylamine | 62 | Potassium chlorate |
| 14 | Propylene oxide | 63 | Potassium nitrate |
| 15 | Methyl ethyl ketone | 64 | Potassium perchlorate |
| 16 | Methyl vinyl ketone | 65 | Potassium permanganate |
| 17 | Acrylic acid | 66 | Sodium chlorate |
| 18 | Methyl acrylate | 67 | Sodium nitrate |
| 19 | Nitrobenzene | 68 | O-Isopropyl methyl |
| | | | phosphonofiuoridate |
| 20 | 4-Nitrotoluene | 69 | Cyanogen chloride |
| 21 | Benzyl chloride | 70 | Nickel carbonyl |
| 22 | Acrolein | 71 | Germane |
| 23 | Allyl chloride | 72 | Tetrafluoroethylene |
| 24 | Acrylonitrile | 73 | Trifluoroborane |
| 25 | Ethylenediamine | 74 | Boron trichloride |
| 26 | Allyl alcohol | 75 | Hexafluoro-1,3-butadiene |
| 27 | m-Cresol | 76 | Bromine |
| 28 | Toluene | 77 | Hydrogen selenide |
| 29 | Phenol | 78 | Isoprene |
| 30 | n-Butylamine | 79 | 1,1-Dichloroethylene |
| 31 | Triethylamine | 80 | Hexamethyl disiloxane |
| 32 | Ethyl acetate | 81 | Pentacarbonyl iron |
| 33 | Sodium cyanide | 82 | Bromine pentafluoride |
| 34 | Ethylenimine | 83 | Thionyl chloride |
| 35 | Toluene-2,4-diisocyanate | 84 | Titanium tetrachloride |
| | (TDI) | | |
| 36 | Carbon monoxide | 85 | Chloropicrin |
| 37 | Acrylyl chloride | 86 | Vinyl ethyl ether |
| 38 | Zinc phosphide | 87 | Silane |
| 39 | Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide | 88 | Disilane |
| 40 | Isophorone diisocyanate | 89 | Dichlorosilane |
| 41 | Sodium | 90 | Trichlorosilane |
| 42 | Hydrogen chloride | 91 | Methyldichlorosilane |
| 43 | Hydrogen fluoride | 92 | Methyltrichlorosilane |
| 44 | Ammonia | 93 | Trichlorovinylsilane |
| 45 | Sulfuric acid | 94 | Trichloroethylsilane |
| 46 | Nitric acid | 95 | Tetramethylsilane |
| 47 | Phosphorus trichloride | 96 | Silicon Tetrachloride |
| 48 | Fluorine | 97 | Silicon tetrafluoride |
| 49 | Chlorine | | |
| | | | |

cording to the management regulations of each country [28,29]. In this social atmosphere, materials with the potential to cause great damage during an accident are designated and managed in Korea. The controlled substances are referred to as "APCs", which are defined as follows:

- APCs: Chemical substances that are likely to cause serious damage due to strong acute toxicity or explosion risk or are likely to cause an accident if an accident occurs ['Chemical Control Act' Chapter 5 Section 1 Article 39].

Currently, 69 types of APCs are registered in the 'Chemical Control Act', shown in Table 2. However, in reality, there are more than 69 chemical species, and thus additional designation of controlled substances is required [24].

2. Candidates for Additional APC Designation

2-1. Definition of Property

Chemicals are classified according to their characteristics. Chemicals have characteristics that are specific to each substance and must be managed accordingly [30]. Therefore, chemical management should proceed from the point of use and storage, and its characteristics must be understood correctly [31,32]. The chemical properties considered in the text, as well as their definitions, are summarized as follows.

(1) Explosive substance:

Solids, liquids or mixtures that produce gases (from their own chemical reactions), and can damage the surrounding environment by their temperatures, pressures, and speeds.

(2) Flammable substance:

Gases with a flammable range when mixed with air at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa at 20 $^{\circ}$ C and liquids that have a <60 $^{\circ}$ C flash point at a 101.3 kPa standard pressure.

(3) Self-reactive substance:

Substances that are easy to decompose exothermically to a thermally unstable state without the supply of liquid oxygen and solid material pyrophoric substance.

(4) Pyrophoric material:

Liquids and solids that can ignite in less than 5 minutes in air.

(5) Water-reactive substance:

Substances or mixtures that react with water to release flammable gases.

(6) Organic peroxide:

Hydrogen peroxide derivatives in which one or two hydrogen atoms have a bivalent **-O-O-** structure and are replaced by organic radicals.

2-2. Classification Criteria of Additional APC Designations

The substances designated as APCs are physically and chemically hazardous and have risks, such as flammability, explosion, reactivity, and leakage. They are also acutely toxic when orally ingested, inhaled or exposed to the skin. These substances have a high probability of accidental exposure due to a large domestic distribution. Other considered substances require special care due to high accident risk [33].

The initial research subjects were 4,994 species, including Design Institute for Physical Properties (DIPPR) (1,700 species), hazardous material (2,527 species), and toxicological (767 species of Risk Management Plan (RMP and COMMA) data. We proposed a threestep substance selection procedure to select additional APCs, which

Fig. 1. APC addition procedures schematic.

includes screening, scoring, rating, and selection. During the screening process, 1,362 species were selected, and 210 species were selected through the rating process (Fig. 1).

ADDITIONAL APC SELECTION

The expansion of management materials is necessary as the scale of handling facilities and materials is diversified, as shown above. Additional APCs were selected by considering the handled amount and the substance risk, except for the substances which overlapped with the APCs. To select additional APCs, the substances were classified into substances with high physicochemical hazards, such as flammability, explosion, and reactivity, substances with high acute toxicity, and substances with high accident exposure due to the high domestic distribution. In addition, workplaces that are based in industrial complexes or near residential areas will suffer more damage during accidents, and thus the chemicals used were identified by classifying the plants according to their estimated scale of damage. The screening, scoring, and rating phases were used to identify the additional candidate substances for accident assignment. The next step was to select substances to add to the accidental substance, including 100 flammable, 100 toxic, and 10 explosive substances.

1. Procedures for Classifying Hazardous Materials

The procedures of classification and selection are applied differ-

ently depending on the application. The selection and classification of substances is mainly applied in the process of selecting specific substances in the environmental and medical fields, and most of them are evaluated through experiments and sample analysis [34- 37]. In this study, the evaluation based on the physical properties of the chemicals was carried out. In this process, each rating criterion refers to domestic and global regulations and is re-set as needed to facilitate evaluation and interpretation [38].

1-1. Screening Procedure

Through the selection process, 1362 out of 4994 substances were selected by several criteria that are summarized in Table 3. Materials were first selected to conform with the regulations by applying different criteria according to the data type. We selected 1700 DIPPR substances, which included 646 flammable liquids and 60 flammable gases. Additionally, 2527 kinds of hazardous materials were selected, which included 17 pyrophoric substances, 2 self-reactive substances, 2 explosive substances, 24 water-reactive substances, and 7 organic peroxides. Furthermore, 767 kinds of toxic chemicals were screened as 604 acute toxicity species.

1-2. Scoring and Selection Procedures

Prior to substance screening, primary sorting materials were classified as flammable, explosive/reactive, and toxic. Explosive reactive substances that cause the largest damage in case of an accident were prioritized. As a result of secondary screening, 210 kinds of substances were selected, including 100 kinds of flammable sub-

| Data type (Number of species) | Screening criteria | | The number of selected species |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| DIPPR (1,700) | Flammable liquid | Flash point below 60 °C (GHS Categories 1, 2, and 3) | 646 |
| | Flammable gas | Explosion limit 13% or lower, explosion upper/lower limit difference of 12% or more (GHS Category 1) | 60 |
| | Pyrophoric substances | GHS Category 1 | 17 |
| Hazardous materials | Self-reactive substances | GHS Types A and B | 2 |
| (2,527) | Explosive substances | GHS Class 1.1 | \mathfrak{D} |
| | Water-reactive substances | GHS Category 1 | 24 |
| | Organic peroxides | GHS Types A and B | 7 |
| Toxic chemicals (767) | Acute toxicity | GHS criteria oral, dermal, inhalation categories 1, 2, 3, and 4 | 604 |
| | | Total | 1362 |

Table 3. Screening criteria and number of selected species for each data type

Table 4. Flammable substance rating criteria

Table 5. Rating section and value for each characteristic

stances, 10 kinds of explosive/reactive substances, and 100 kinds of toxic substances.

1-3. Ranking and Rating Procedures

An indicator was created according to the substance characteristics to set priorities for each substance type. Then, these substances were ranked according to their indicators.

1-3-1. Ranking and Rating of Flammable Substances

Physical hazards, such as flash point and heat of combustion, were evaluated by considering the distribution of substance characteristics and referring to the DIPPR data from the American Chemical Society. As summarized in Table 4, the risk index (out of 20 points) is calculated by summing the risk characteristics (Section 3) and the leakage/diffusion characteristics (Section 2). Explosive substances (Class 1.1), self-reactive substances (Types A and B), and pyrophoric solids (Category 1) were prioritized. Higher values were obtained by comparing the leakage/diffusion characteristic scores (7 points total) and the basic scores (5 points total) for pyrophoric liquids (Category 1), water-reactive substances (Category 1), and organic peroxides (Types A and B).

- TNT Combustion Heat Ratio

 Combustion Heat of the Material $\overline{(\text{Combustion Heat of the Combustion (Explosive)}$

- Explosion risk

\n
$$
= \frac{\text{(Explosion upper limit} - \text{Lower explosion limit)}}{\text{(Lower explosion limit)}}
$$
\n

- Diffusion potential number (V) =
$$
\frac{(1.6 \times M^{(0.67)})}{(T + 273) \times 100}
$$

where M is molecular weight and T is boiling point ($^{\circ}$ C).

The scores were divided by the score of each characteristic, described in Table 5.

Through the secondary screening, 100 flammable substances and 10 explosive/reactive substances were selected, as summarized in Table 6, 7 and 8.

Table 6. Ranks of the 84 selected flammable liquids

1-3-2. Ranking and Rating of Toxic Substances

The toxic substances were rated based on US EPA (138 species), UK COMMA (50 species), ERPG-2 values, and toxicological data. The scores were given in the order of inhalation, transdermal, and oral toxicities, as summarized in Table 9.

Different scores were assigned according to the toxicity and risk characteristic classifications, and the respective rating values are summarized in Tables 10 and 11.

In addition, acute toxicity classification criteria (limit values) for substances are as shown in Table 11 [E].

1-3-3. Rating of Common Characteristics

In addition, flammable and toxic substances have common leakage and diffusion characteristics, and for these characteristics, the number of diffusion potentials was applied on the same standard. The rating criteria shown in Tables 12 and 13 for vapor pressure were applied to gases.

Table 7. Ranks of the 16 selected flammable gases

Table 8. Ranks of the 10 selected explosive substances

Table 9. Toxic substance rating criteria

Table 10. Inhalation toxicity sets the risk characteristic score by category

Table 11. Acute toxicity classification criteria for substance (limit value)

Table 12. Rating section and diffusion potential value

Table 13. Rating section and value for vapor pressure

- The diffusion potential index (X)

$$
=(1.6*(M^{0.67}))*(\frac{1}{(273+T)*100}),
$$

where M is molecular weight and T is boiling point ($^{\circ}$ C). $T = (1.6*(M^{0.67})) * (\frac{1}{(273+T)*100}),$
The risk index is calculated by summing up the risk character-

Table 14. Continued

istics (total of 20 points; Section 3) and the leakage/diffusion characteristics (Section 2), as summarized in Table 14.

APPLICATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INFORMATION

A web-based emergency response plan system that provides safety management systems to each facility was developed in 2011 [24], so the program needs to be updated. The information from 100 toxic materials, selected by the developed algorithm in this study, was added to the existing web-based CARM development system. The management system provides management and analyzation capabilities and makes the emergency plan convenient. In this section, the management system is described in detail.

1. User Registration and Login Module

To develop CARM, user registration and login information are needed. Basic company information, such as name, registration number, address, representative, contact information, and password, is required for registration. The login and registration screens are shown in Fig. 2.

2. Hazardous Material Safety Information Module

This module provides important safety information for each material. The material safety database sheet (MSDS) information provided by the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency was used to develop this module.

Fig. 3 shows the material search and safety information screens.

Fig. 2. CARM user registration and login screen.

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Fig. 4. Facility floor plan and equipment status screen.

When a user selects a target material, its MSDS information is automatically generated on the system start-up screen. The user can also input material information, such as the concentration, daily amount used, and average storage amount.

3. Status of the Chemical Accident Control Facilities and Equipment Module

This module describes the status of the chemical accident control facilities and equipment. Fig. 4 shows an example of a control facility diagram. Users can easily draft a floor plan of their plant using the line, square, triangle, and circle icons.

The CARM development system also supports the direct insertion of a plant floor plan in image formats. After doing so, users can input the status and location of each piece of equipment by dragging and dropping. The system supports a variety of safety equipment icons, including for wastewater treatment, fire suppression, and human body and respiratory protection.

Fig. 5. Organization of the safety management screen.

Fig. 6. Expected damage range screen.

4. Safety Management Organization and Emergency Response System Module

The safety management organization chart is created in this module.

Fig. 5 shows the template of the organization module. The user can input the name and contact information of the safety, environmental, and facility managers. The software supports organization chart templates as well as the division of works when an emergency occurs. Additionally, emergency measures for an accident situation are drafted. A basic emergency measure template is provided for users, who can subsequently modify it according to their environment and needs. The module also supports emergency contacts with relevant agencies, such as the ward office and fire department.

5. Range of Expected Damage and Planning for Dissipation

This module supports expected damage ranges and considers various conditions to establish a resident evacuation plan. For user convenience, the CARM development system sets the default value of input parameters to facilitate use of the risk assessment system. The risk assessment program may perform less reliably if the input parameters are over-simplified. Therefore, to increase the reliability, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s ALOHA simulation results are loaded into the expected damage range module. Fig. 6 shows the parameter input screen. Here the user can input the chemical name, type of accident, storage amount, atmospheric conditions, and wind information. Following input, the system outputs the expected damage range, shown in Fig. 6.

CONCLUSION

As the chemical industry has changed dramatically, it has become necessary to select additional substances for systematic management. In Korea, there has been a policy revision in the chemical

management guidelines in the wake of the recent hydrogen-fluoride leak accident in Gu-mi. Certain criteria and screening steps are essential for selecting the most important substances out of the many different chemicals used. In this study, criteria were established for substance selection, and a three step procedure was proposed. A total of 210 kinds of flammable materials, 10 explosive substances, and 100 toxic substances were selected from 4,994 target substances in two screening stages. Priorities of the classified substances were determined by applying a rating method. At each step, substance selection criteria are needed. Therefore, appropriate criteria were prepared and applied according to a given material's characteristics. For toxic substances, the information of the selected 100 toxic substances was added to the existing web-based CARM system. This system includes modules for hazardous material information, accident management facility and installation, emergency response, accident scope, and dissipation planning. Managers will become more comfortable owing to the ease in managing the greater number of materials. Thus, the developed hazardous substance information system will improve chemical safety management in the workplace. Moreover, it is expected that this system will contribute to safer work environments in terms of chemical substance management.

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