

**SAFEX**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
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**INCIDENT NOTICE**

(Kindly direct all correspondence to the Secretary General)

**INCIDENT TITLE:** Suspected contamination of emulsion with sodium nitrite

<b>DATE POSTED</b> 7 April 2021	<b>REFERENCE</b> IN 21-11	<b>SOURCE</b> Anonymous
<b>INCIDENT OUTLINE</b>		
<b>When did it happen?</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	
<b>Who experienced it?</b>	Mining Services Operation – South America	
<b>Where did it happen?</b>	Salto de Pirapora, Brazil	
<b>What material was involved?</b>	Bulk Emulsion (Division 5.1), Sodium Nitrite	
<b>What happened?</b>	After loading emulsion into a transport vehicle, foaming was noted from the hatch after driving a short distance. The driver inspected the tank, and noticed a chemical reaction was occurring. Internal experts were consulted, water was added to the tank, and the vehicle parked in a safe location with the hatch open to prevent pressure build-up.	
<b>Why did it happen – theory?</b>	Sodium nitrite contamination of the emulsion compartment was suspected, although no cause for the contamination could be determined.	
<b>What was the impact?</b>	The load was discharged to waste.	

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Enclosure** No  
**Subsequent report** No

**COMMENT**

**Value of incident** An appropriately precautionary approach was taken to a potential cross-contamination event.

**Comment**

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