



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Remote Isolation of Process Equipment
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2024-01-H-R2
<b>Date Issued:</b>	July 25, 2024
<b>Recipient:</b>	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	Not Applicable – Initial Status

### Recommendation Text:

*Update the Risk Management Program (RMP) rule by expanding the requirements of 40 CFR Part 68 to include an evaluation of the need for remote isolation devices for major process equipment that can be remotely activated from a safe location or automatically activated during a release. The evaluation should be included in hazard assessments, hazard reviews, and process hazard analyses.*

### Board Status Change Decision:

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has reviewed and investigated numerous incidents where the consequences escalated following a loss of containment due to the lack of effective remote isolation equipment. These incidents resulted in serious injuries, fatalities, environmental contamination, and severe damage to facilities.

Following the 2019 incident at the TPC Group chemical plant in Port Neches, TX, the CSB concluded that improved requirements for remote isolation are necessary. The CSB initiated this Safety Study to review the incidents investigated by the CSB and determine the action needed to address deficiencies in both industry guidance and federal regulations.

The CSB found that although guidance has been available for many years, it has not been consistently followed. The CSB concluded that stronger remote isolation requirements are needed. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2024-01-H-R2.