

Cooling Off in Caojing

With summer now here and days reaching high 30's, Caojing is cooling off in the final days of commissioning and initial operation of the remaining phase 1 customer facilities. Apart from constructing and commissioning 5 new tank pits, we have also in June commenced drumming and storing "pure MDI" drums in our "frozen warehouse". We have one (500m²) - 40 degC and two (1000m²) -20degC drum storage warehouses. That's up to nearly 80 degrees difference on a hot Shanghai day!

The pure (or monomeric) MDI is drummed at 50 degC on two drumming machines directly from iso-tanks. The reason for the low temperatures is for product quality to prevent "dimer" or solids formation. After shock freezing at -40 degC for a number of hours, the drums are transferred to -20 degC for longer term storage and then dispatched into refrigerated trucks. Operating such cold storage warehouses brings new challenges for both personnel safety and equipment.

As our new customer's plants start up operations and our existing customers continue to ramp up production, we soon will pass a major milestone in Caojing Terminal's history with the completion of phase 1 and establishment of normal operations. However, no time to rest as the next construction phase is already in planning to meet demands for new plants being constructed in the Shanghai Chemical Industry Park.



Cooling of drummed MDI in Vopak's first "frozen" warehouse