
Question 70: How can you minimize the possibility of ignition and fire in the structured packing of main fractionators after they are opened for maintenance? Do you use chemicals to improve this procedure?

Emerson Domingo (Sunoco)

Zyme-flow products have been used in our past FCC turnarounds to mitigate pyrophoric compounds as well as decrease the amount of time to hydrocarbon free the main fractionator and associated pumparound circuits.

Celso Pajaro (Sulzer Chemtech USA)

Question 70 was fully addressed by the FRI Design Practices Committee, chaired by Dan Summers of Sulzer Chemtech. This paper was published by Chemical Engineering, July 2007, pages 34 thru 43. The paper mentions two specific chemical methods that can be used in the degassing / degreasing process during a tower shutdown. The Committee presented recommendations for shutdown and maintenance procedures that can reduce the risk of structured packing fires.

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