

NACD's members' commitment and dedication to the industry, the environment, health, safety, and security is exemplified by the membership's commitment to the Responsible Distribution ProcessSM (RDP). RDP is a management protocol designed to promote continuous improvement in the health, safety, security, and environmental performance of all member companies and is sensitive and responsive to community needs and public concerns. It is an initiative of NACD and its member companies, and it is important to note that adherence to RDP has been mandatory for membership in NACD since 1991.

In pursuit of the above commitment, NACD developed *Guiding Principles* that member companies pledge to follow:

1. To recognize and respond to community concerns about chemicals, their handling, and transportation.
2. To make health, safety, security, and environmental considerations a priority in our planning for all existing and new operations, products, processes, and facilities.
3. To inform emergency response officials, employees, customers, and the public of the manufacturer's information on chemical-related health or environmental hazards, and the manufacturer's recommendations on protective measures.

4. To work with customers, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations on product stewardship including handling, use, transportation, and disposal of chemical products.
5. To operate our plants and facilities in a manner that protects the health and safety of our employees, the public, and the environment.
6. To cooperate in resolving problems created by past handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals.
7. To participate with government and others in creating responsible laws, regulations, and practices to help safeguard the community, workplace, and environment.
8. To promote the principles and practices of the Responsible Distribution ProcessSM by sharing experiences and offering assistance to others who produce, handle, use, transport, or dispose of chemicals.

To guide member companies' actions in all aspects of the distribution of chemical products, a *Code of Management Practice* is followed. Continuous improvement against these criteria is measured by periodic assessments of each member company.

Each member commits to having an active program designed to continuously improve the chemical distribution industry's responsible management of chemicals. RDP components include:

- I. Risk Management
- II. Compliance Review and Training
- III. Carrier Selection
- IV. Handling and Storage
- V. Job Procedures and Training
- VI. Waste Management and Resource Conservation
- VII. Emergency Response and Public Preparedness
- VIII. Community Outreach
- IX. Product Stewardship
- X. Internal Audits
- XI. Corrective and Preventive Action
- XII. Document and Data Control

Following September 11, 2001, additional focus has been placed on security through new RDP requirements.



One of the unique aspects of the Responsible Distribution ProcessSM is its strong relationship with mandatory independent third-party verification. NACD requires two third-party verifications as a condition of membership. First, before an NACD Candidate member is approved for Regular membership, an independent third-party firm trained in auditing and verification verifies that the Candidate's written RDP policies and procedures sufficiently address the requirements within the RDP *Code of Management Practice*. Candidate members who meet this initial verification requirement, known as Document Verification, are then entitled to all Association benefits and are called Regular members. To ensure integrity and accountability of RDP, Regular members are required to undergo a second, mandatory verification that is conducted on-site by the third-party verifying firm. This on-site verification, called RDP Verification, determines whether a member's RDP policies and procedures are, in fact, in place and being adhered to. If not, and the member is unable or unwilling to correct the deficiencies, they are dropped from membership. This on-site verification process has been a condition of membership in NACD since 1998.

The first three-year cycle in which all NACD members went through on-site RDP Verification ended on July 1, 2002. The second three-year cycle began January 1, 2003. During every three-year cycle Regular members are required to verify that their management policies and procedures are, in fact, in place and being adhered to. It is this continuous verification process that helps drive continuous improvement, and brings credibility to the program, NACD, and its members.



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The NACD *Affiliate Program for Chemical Handlers* is designed for chemical handlers that do not otherwise qualify for regular NACD membership. Public warehouses and terminals are examples of chemical handlers who participate in this program. The main focus of this program for these affiliates is mandatory compliance with RDP and the benefits derived from participating in RDP.

Understandably, members of NACD who have successfully gone through both RDP verifications – of documents and on-site assessment – are justifiably proud of their accomplishments. Moreover, there are compelling reasons to argue that RDP requirements have not only been effective in protecting health and the environment and improving safety and security performance, but that RDP has also improved the efficiency and risk management of distributor businesses. Suppliers, community leaders, emergency preparedness personnel, and federal and state regulators have recognized RDP as a stringent management system and the analysis of the annual Membership and Performance Data Report, initiated in 2001, strongly suggests that RDP works as intended.



A commitment to continuous improvement in health, safety, security, and environmental performance.

“ Since we have implemented RDP, we have seen improved supplier support, an improved safety record, and an improved sense of teamwork throughout the staff.”

“ We have received lower insurance premiums as a result of being compliant with RDP.”

“ RDP provides a mechanism for the continuous improvement of our operations.”

“ RDP assists with the coordination of our emergency response efforts with local agencies.”

“ Since implementing RDP, we have more credibility throughout the industry.”

“ RDP has provided us with a greater internal awareness of all components for a successful business.”

NACD RDP

For more information on NACD, RDP, or how to become an NACD member or an Affiliate Program Participant, please contact the Association Programs Department at NACD.

Find a Responsible Distributor

For a complete listing of NACD members in good standing or to download a membership application, please visit: www.nacd.com.



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7/2004

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Quality • Responsibility • Stewardship

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The Responsible
Distribution ProcessSM