



# RECOMMENDATIONS TO DISCONNECT HOSES IN CASE STILL UNDER PRESSURE

OCTOBER 2023

ISBN: 978-2-930160-91-7

D/2023/7512/122

By consulting and/or using this publication, the user acknowledges and agrees to be bound by the following stipulations. Eurobitume has made considerable efforts to compile this publication on the basis of reliable sources. However, Eurobitume cannot and does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, reliability and effectiveness of the information contained in this publication for whatever purpose. Furthermore, the content of this publication may be changed, suspended, revised and/or removed by Eurobitume, at its sole discretion, at any time for whatever reason and without notice. Finally, except for cases of fraud, neither Eurobitume nor its members are liable for any loss, damages or injury whatsoever relating to the consultation or use of this publication, or the inability to do so. Eurobitume, October 2023, [info@eurobitume.eu](mailto:info@eurobitume.eu)

# INTRODUCTION

Learning from incidents, this document sets out recommendations for actions in case the hose to unload bitumen from a tank trailer is still under pressure.

From an evaluation of practical experiences, the need to disconnect hoses still under pressure appears rather frequently.

The recommendations are related to pump based operations that cannot be terminated, thus the remaining load in the tank will continue to present pressure from gravity on equipment. Reasons might be failure of ground-based pump, blocked pipes, etc..

These recommendations do not apply for disconnecting hoses while pressure discharge.

The site of discharge remains the sole authority to decide which actions to take. However, the following steps are recommended to be included in the haulier's procedures.

## PREREQUISITE

Before commencing discharge, the standard procedures must be applied. The driver must:

- wear full PPE (Personal Protective Equipment, see Eurobitume Guide to the Safe Delivery of Bitumen), with the visor of the helmet being down
- notify his operation manager of the incident
- validate the different steps with the site manager before any action is taken
- check that the customer's spillage collecting tray has sufficient capacity to receive the bitumen contained in the hose (approximately 25 litres) before any intervention
- check that nobody else is within the 6 metres area
- check that a safety shower is present and working
- in no case try to disconnect the hose under pressure alone, that is without other personnel being available: it is imperative to ask for the help of a duly authorised operator, also equipped with appropriate PPE

**In case the driver is alone, it is strongly recommended not to disconnect the hose.**

During work, general safety conditions need to be respected. For guidance, please also consult the Eurobitume documents:

- Eurobitume Safe Handling Card
- Eurobitume Bitumen Burns Card
- Eurobitume Loading Compatibility Matrix
- Eurobitume H<sub>2</sub>S Card
- Eurobitume H<sub>2</sub>S Pocket Guide
- Eurobitume Guide to the Safe Delivery of Bitumen
- Eurobitume Safety Shower Guidance

These documents are available at [www.eurobitume.eu](http://www.eurobitume.eu).

# DISCONNECTING HOSES

Further steps depend on the equipment and the installations at the discharge site.

## **If the tank trailer is equipped with an air intake at the connection to the hose**

The driver must carry out the following operations:

- Close the bottom valve of the trailer.
- Very slowly open the valve on the air intake.
- Very gently and carefully turn the hose collar on the customer's side to start emptying the hose.
- When there is no more bitumen flowing, raise and lower the hose several times to empty it completely into the collecting tray.
- When the hose is light and no longer bitumen flowing out, it is deemed being empty and can be disconnected from the tank trailer side.
- Raise the hose (with the stem or by hand) to let it drain.
- Fold down the hose for cleaning and storage.
- Close the air intake of the trailer.
- Close the end valve of the tank pipe.
- Put the cap of the trailer back on.

## **If the tank trailer is not equipped with an air intake at the connection to the hose**

The driver must carry out the following operations:

- Close the bottom valve of the trailer.
- Very gently and carefully turn the hose collar on the customer's side to start emptying the hose.
- When there is no more pressure, disconnect gently on the customer's side to finish draining the hose in the collection tray.
- Raise and lower the hose several times to empty it completely into the collecting tray.
- When the hose is light and no longer bitumen flowing out, it is deemed being empty and can be disconnected from the tank trailer side.
- Raise the hose (with the stem or by hand) to let it drain.
- Fold down the hose for cleaning and storage.
- Close the end valve of the tank pipe.
- Put the cap of the trailer back on.

## **If the actions recommended above cannot, even partially, be applied, or features are not in place, it is recommended to:**

- close the valves;
- then to wait for the hose to cool down (be ready to give up the hose full of solid or nearly solid bitumen);
- disconnect the hose only when valves are closed while at the same time being very cautious about spills, and
- bring the truck to a different site, in compliance with ADR regulations, to unload (using a different hose).

**Eurobitume**  
Boulevard du Souverain 165  
B-1160 Brussels  
Belgium  
T: +32 2 566 91 40  
E: [info@eurobitume.eu](mailto:info@eurobitume.eu)



[www.eurobitume.eu](http://www.eurobitume.eu)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/eurobitume](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eurobitume)

 [www.twitter.com/eurobitume](https://www.twitter.com/eurobitume)