Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container (FIBC) Storage and Handling Guide
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FIBC Safety

- Cristal FIBCs are filled with up to 1,000 Kg (2,500 pounds) of product. Therefore, extreme caution should be used when handling FIBCs to avoid injury.

- Contact your Cristal Sales Representative if you have any questions or concerns regarding the safe handling and usage of FIBCs.

FIBC Storage

- Store FIBCs under cover in a dry area at ambient temperature and humidity.

- Do not stack filled FIBCs more than 2 units high.

- While the polypropylene fabric offers good abrasion resistance, it is still susceptible to cuts and punctures. Care should be taken in the handling and storage of FIBCs.

FIBC Handling

- FIBCs can be transported by the provided wooden pallet, or carried by the lifting straps.

- When carrying FIBCs with a fork lift truck, the truck must be adequately rated for the load to be carried.

- Due to the large mass of a FIBC, a forklift can become unstable when carrying this package type. To minimize this concern, the FIBC should be carried as close to the mast as possible with the forks tilted slightly backwards. The FIBC should also be carried as low as possible.

- Avoid any sudden starts, stops, or turns.
Do not allow FIBCs to be dragged during transport.

FIBC Lifting

- Insure that the lifting device to be used is appropriately rated for the load to be lifted.

- Never allow anyone to walk or work under a raised FIBC. Cristal FIBCs are equipped with remote release mechanisms so the product can be discharged safely from the side of the FIBC.

- Inspect the lifting straps prior to use. Do not attempt to lift the FIBC if any straps are damaged.

- Always lift a FIBC by using all 4 lifting straps. Maintain a near vertical position on the straps in order to minimize lateral forces on the FIBC fabric. Avoid any knotting or twisting of the straps.

- Inspect lifting equipment for sharp edges or other damage that could cut the lifting straps.

- Raise and lower the FIBC smoothly. Avoid sudden starts or stops.

FIBC Discharge

- Sufficient headroom in required to unload the FIBC, and will vary according to the unloading procedure used. Similarly, a minimum distance will be needed between the bottom of the FIBC and the receiver to allow the discharge spout and extended cone bottom to function effectively.

- Consider the potential effects of static electricity during material discharge. Cristal offers Type D static dissipative FIBCs for use in potentially flammable or explosive environments. Please contact your Cristal sales representative for more information.

- Utilize the remote discharge mechanism on the FIBC. Never allow anyone to place any part of their body under a raised FIBC.
The drawstring on the discharge spout can be used to control the initial flow rate of the pigment. However, once the material has started to flow, tightening this string will not reduce or stop the flow.

FIBC Troubleshooting

**Problem:** The FIBC has a small tear or cut in it.
**Solution:** Small tears and cuts that do not compromise the structure of the bag itself can be temporarily repaired with a patch and tape. Do not attempt to repair damage to a lifting strap. Should such damage occur, do not attempt to lift the FIBC by the straps. The FIBC must be emptied via manual means.

**Problem:** An FIBC has fallen onto its side
**Solution:** Fallen FIBCs can be righted by picking them up by all 4 lifting straps (i.e. run a web or rope sling through all 4 lifting straps). Attempting to right the FIBC by using less than all 4 straps may cause damage to the FIBC, resulting in injury and/or product loss.

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