

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN REGION- CHENNAI.
(Application u/s 14,15, read with sections 17,18 of the NGT Act
2010)**

O.A.NO. 253 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Sri Chaitanya Sravanthi

Rep. by Founder and President, Dr. Shirin Rahman Shaik

D. No 48-8/12, Dwarakanagar,

Visakhapatnam,

Andhra Pradesh - 530016

.....Applicant

Vs

State of Andhra Pradesh & 9 Others

.....Respondents

**SECOND ADDITIONAL TYPED SET OF DOCUMENTS FILED BY THE 9TH
RESPONDENT**

Dated at Chennai on 4th April 2026

FILED BY

M.R DHARANI CHANDER

ADVOCATE FOR 9th RESPONDENT

No 27K, 3rd FLOOR, PANDU KLIX PLAZA

CHENNAI – 600001

PH: 9025783042

COUNSEL FOR 9TH RESPONDENT

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SNo	Date	Description	Pg No
1	03.02.2026	Committee Findings on Inspection Visit to Visakhapatnam Port Authority – 9 th Respondent (20.01.2026 to 23.01.2026)	1-10
2	13.03.2026	Email from Ministry, regarding the Meeting Chaired by Secretary to discuss issues related to Ammonium Nitrate	11
3	24.03.2026	Email from Ministry, regarding the Meeting Chaired by Secretary to discuss issues related to Ammonium Nitrate	12
4	27.03.2026	Letter from Visakhapatnam Port Authority, 9 th Respondent to Andhra Pradesh Pollution control Board, requesting for relaxation in the restrictions imposed by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and APPCB on importing of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port - Expeditious action Requested with Remarks.	13 - 31
5	27.03.2026	Letter from Visakhapatnam Port Authority, 9 th Respondent to Andhra Pradesh Pollution control Board, with submission of undertaking.	32 - 33

6	30.03.2026	Letter from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board to Visakhapatnam Port Authority, 9 th Respondent with regard to restrictions on import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPT.	34 - 35
7	02.04.2026	Letter from Visakhapatnam Port Authority , 9 th Respondent to Andhra Pradesh Pollution control Board, with respect to Restrictions on import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through Visakhapatnam Port - Submission of detailed compliance status, action plan with timelines, and clarifications on DGFASLI observations -	36 - 42

Dated at Chennai on 4th April 2026



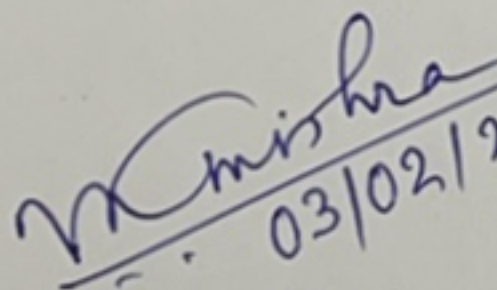
COUNSEL FOR 9TH RESPONDENT

**Subject: Committee Findings on Inspection Visit to Visakhapatnam Port Authority
(20.01.2026 to 23.01.2026)**

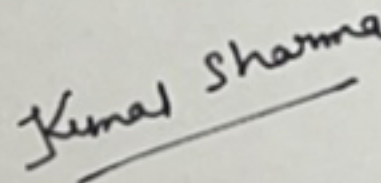
A duly constituted Committee visited the Visakhapatnam Port Authority from 20th January 2026 to 23rd January 2026 to assess the preparedness, safety management systems, infrastructure adequacy, and regulatory compliance related to the handling of Ammonium Nitrate and other hazardous chemicals at the port premises. The Committee carried out detailed site inspections, interacted with concerned officials, reviewed available documents and records, and examined the existing arrangements pertaining to transportation, storage, emergency response, fire safety, medical preparedness, training, security, and statutory documentation.

2. During the visit, it was observed that the port is presently not handling ammonium nitrate and that most systems specific to hazardous chemical operations are either not in place or are only partially developed. While certain general safety arrangements exist, significant gaps were identified in critical areas such as dedicated transportation routes, AN-specific emergency plans, fire protection systems, training and competency assessment, maintenance protocols, community awareness, and compliance monitoring mechanisms.

3. The port authority has indicated that necessary measures will be implemented prior to commencement of hazardous chemical handling. The detailed observations, key issues identified, recommended actions, and status reports as assessed by the Committee are compiled and attached herewith for kind perusal and further necessary action.


03/02/2026

Vipul Kumar Mishra
Director (Safety)



Dr Kunal Sharma
Assistant Director (Safety)

Enclosure: Detailed Committee Findings (Sl. No. 3.1 to 3.18)

Enclosure

Sl. No.	Committee Finding	Key Issues Identified	Recommended Actions	Current Status Report
3.1	Lack of Dedicated Transportation and Route Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dedicated vehicles for ammonium nitrate • No earmarked routes or warning signage • Absence of barriers/separation from other traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate/approve dedicated vehicles meeting safety standards • Notify and mark dedicated routes with signage • Provide physical barriers and segregation measures 	Partial compliance observed. Certain preparatory actions based on earlier committee recommendations have been initiated; however, full implementation of dedicated vehicles, designated routes, signage, and segregation measures has not been completed, as the port is presently not handling hazardous chemicals. These preparations will be strengthened before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.
3.2	Inadequate Safety and Emergency Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fire separation systems • No ammonium nitrate-specific emergency plans • MSDS not displayed or accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install fire separation systems • Develop AN-specific emergency response plans • Display MSDS at all handling/storage locations 	Partially complied. General emergency arrangements exist; however, fire separation systems, ammonium-nitrate-specific emergency plans, and proper display of MSDS are not in place. These prearrangements will be strengthened before handling hazardous

				chemicals as quoted by VPA.
3.3	Insufficient Training and Competency Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specialized or refresher training • No competency assessment mechanism • No hazardous material certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct periodic AN-specific training • Introduce competency assessment framework • Implement mandatory certification programs 	Partially complied. General safety training has been conducted for a limited section of VPA staff; however, ammonium-nitrate-specific training, a formal competency assessment mechanism, and certification for all employees are not in place. These arrangements will be strengthened before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.
3.4	Poor Maintenance and Inspection Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No equipment maintenance schedule • Infrequent or inadequate inspections • Absence of periodic safety audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish maintenance & replacement SOPs • Conduct routine inspections • Schedule periodic internal & third-party safety audits 	Partially complied. Regular maintenance and inspections are being carried out for general port equipment. However, specific maintenance schedules, inspection records, and safety audits related to ammonium nitrate handling will be implemented before resumption of chemical operations as quoted by VPA.
3.5	Non-Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete/missing onsite & disaster plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare comprehensive 	Partially complied. Confusion between the

	with Safety Regulations & Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor record-keeping • Non-compliance with statutory evaluations 	<p>disaster & onsite plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen documentation & record-keeping • Ensure compliance with all statutory safety provisions 	<p>on-site emergency plan and the disaster management plan was observed. Roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined, and the documentation is not fully in line with the relevant rules. The plans will be clarified, updated, and aligned with applicable regulations before handling hazardous chemicals as communicated by VPA.</p>
3.6	Lack of Emergency Response & Medical Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No AN-specific incident response mechanism • Inadequate medical facilities & trained staff • No command centre or rapid deployment plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop AN incident response system • Upgrade medical facilities & train staff • Establish emergency command centre 	<p>Partially complied. General emergency response arrangements and basic medical facilities are available; however, a specific incident response mechanism for ammonium nitrate, trained medical personnel, and a dedicated command and rapid response system are not in place. These arrangements will be strengthened before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.</p>

3.7	Inadequate Fire Safety Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No automatic fire suppression systems • No regular fire/evacuation drills • Insufficient firefighting equipment & training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install AN-appropriate fire suppression systems • Conduct regular drills & mock exercises • Train and equip firefighting teams 	Partially complied. Firefighting teams are trained and basic fire safety arrangements are available. It has been informed by VPA that ammonium-nitrate-specific fire protection systems, drills involving all employees, and related arrangements will be put in place at the time of handling hazardous chemicals.
3.8	Poor Chemical Compatibility & Storage Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No chemical compatibility assessment • Improper storage conditions • No periodic storage inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out chemical compatibility studies • Improve storage conditions (temp, humidity, segregation) • Conduct routine storage audits 	General storage practices are followed; however, chemical compatibility assessment, ammonium-nitrate-specific storage conditions, and periodic inspections are not in place at present, as the port is not handling hazardous chemicals. VPA has informed that all required measures will be implemented prior to handling of ammonium nitrate.
3.9	Inadequate Community Safety & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No community awareness programs • Emergency contact details not accessible • Weak coordination with local responders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch community awareness initiatives • Publicize emergency contact mechanisms • Conduct joint drills with local agencies 	No data or records related to community awareness programs, emergency contact dissemination, or coordination with local emergency services were made available during the committee visit. VPA has

				informed that such measures will be developed and implemented prior to handling ammonium nitrate.
3.10	Absence of Periodic Review of Safety Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety policies not reviewed periodically • Inconsistent application of regulations • No performance tracking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute periodic policy review mechanism • Ensure uniform enforcement of safety rules • Introduce safety performance indicators 	Very less documented evidence of periodic review of safety policies, consistent application of safety regulations, or performance tracking of safety systems was made available during the committee visit. VPA has informed that a formal review and monitoring mechanism will be put in place prior to handling hazardous chemicals.
3.11	Insufficient PPE for Ammonium Nitrate Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate PPE availability • No PPE inspection/replacement system • Poor PPE usage training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate PPE • Implement PPE inspection & replacement schedule • Conduct PPE usage training 	Limited PPE was available at the port. As informed by VPA, appropriate PPE and related training will be provided in line with requirements at the time of commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.
3.12	Inadequate Security of Storage Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No physical security barriers • Lack of surveillance systems • No access control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install fencing & barriers • Deploy CCTV & monitoring systems 	General security of the port is being handled by CISF, whose deployment is beyond the port boundary. CISF personnel are not

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement access control protocols 	involved in training related to ammonium nitrate. Ammonium-nitrate-specific physical security, surveillance, access control, and coordination mechanisms will be put in place at the time of handling hazardous chemicals, as informed by VPA.
3.13	Deficient Training & Continuous Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specialized AN handling courses • No competency validation • Absence of refresher training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce specialized AN training modules • Implement competency assessments • Conduct refresher programs periodically 	General safety training is being conducted at the port. Fire-related training is presently being handled by the Fire Department; however, the Safety Department is not fully involved, and integration of fire safety functions under the Safety framework is lacking. Specialized training, competency assessment, and refresher programs specific to ammonium nitrate handling are not in place at present, as the port is not handling hazardous chemicals. VPA has informed that integrated training and assessment mechanisms under the Safety Department will be implemented prior to commencement of

				ammonium nitrate handling.
3.14	Inadequate Emergency Medical Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No on-site medical facility • Insufficient first-aid preparedness • No coordination with hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish on-site medical facilities • Train staff in chemical first aid • Formalize tie-ups with hospitals 	The port medical team has basic medical facilities and a list of empanelled hospitals. The medical staff possess related knowledge; however, full-fledged training on chemical exposure, triage, and off-site emergency response is not in place. Formal communication of empanelment and emergency medical arrangements with District Authorities has also not been carried out. As informed by VPA, training and coordination mechanisms will be strengthened prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.
3.15	Weak Community Communication Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public education initiatives • Emergency information not disseminated • No stakeholder engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct public education campaigns • Disseminate emergency information widely • Engage community stakeholders regularly 	No structured community education or regular communication mechanism with local stakeholders was observed. Emergency contact information for the public has not been formally disseminated. As informed by VPA, community

				communication and awareness measures will be developed and implemented prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.
3.16	Lack of Fire Protection & Emergency Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No AN-specific fire suppression systems • Irregular fire drills • No fire safety documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install suitable fire protection systems • Conduct regular drills • Prepare and update fire safety plans 	Basic fire-fighting facilities are available at the port; however, dedicated fire protection systems, documented fire safety plans, and regular emergency drills specific to ammonium nitrate are not in place at present, as the port is not handling hazardous chemicals. VPA has informed that all required fire protection systems, emergency preparedness measures, and documentation will be put in place at the time of handling ammonium nitrate.
3.17	Absence of On-Site Emergency Plan (MSIHC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site emergency plan not available • Inadequate disaster documentation • QRA inadequate for large AN quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare MSIHC-compliant on-site emergency plan • Conduct detailed hazard & risk assessment • Update disaster management documents 	An independent on-site emergency plan specific to ammonium nitrate was not available during the visit. The disaster management plan was being used in place of a separate on-site emergency plan, and the distinction between on-site and off-site

				<p>arrangements was not clearly documented. Hazard identification and risk assessment were limited in scope. As informed by VPA, a detailed on-site emergency plan in line with applicable rules and a comprehensive risk assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.</p>
3.18	<p>No Follow-up on Earlier Committee Directives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past recommendations not tracked • Accountability not fixed • No compliance audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish follow-up & monitoring mechanism • Assign responsibility • Conduct compliance audits 	<p>Records indicating systematic follow-up or compliance tracking of directives issued by earlier committees were not made available during the visit. As informed by VPA, a mechanism for monitoring, assigning responsibility, and periodic review of earlier recommendations will be established prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.</p>

Meeting Chaired by Secretary (PSW) on 13.03.2026 at 7 PM to discuss issues related to Ammonium Nitrate- reg.

CE/TM

मि.के. का कार्यालय
OF THE CHAIRPERSON

13 MAR 2026

भारतीय नौका
पोर्ट AUTHORITY

Nitin Kumar Nim < so-po@nic.in >

Fri, 13 Mar 2026 4:14:57 PM +0530

To "Mukesh Mangal"<as.psw@gov.in>,"Dr. M. Angamuthu, IAS"
<chairman.vpt@gov.in>,"Shri P.L. Haranadh"<chm@paradipport.gov.in>

Cc "Vijay Kumar"<secyship@nic.in>,"R Lakshmanan"<js-ports@nic.in>,"Samarth Verma"
<samarth.verma1@gov.in>,"I G baines"<usports-psw@gov.in>

Respected Madam/Sir,

I am directed to inform that a meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary (PSW) is to be held on **13.03.2026 at 7:00 PM** in room no. 414 (under hybrid mode) to discuss issues related to Ammonium Nitrate. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

- Issue of ban on Ammonium Nitrate imports through Vishakhapatnam Port for early resolution.
- Review of berthing and unloading constraints at Paradip Port to facilitate smoother imports.

2. It is requested that the concerned officers may kindly attend the meeting. All addresses are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting through VC.

3. NIC team is requested to share the VC link for the above meeting.

Regards,

Nitin Kumar Nim
Section Officer, PD-III
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Government of India
New Delhi - 110001

Re: Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PSW) is to be held on 24.03.2026 at 2: 00 PM on the Issue of ban on Ammonium Nitrate imports through Vishakhapatnam Port - regarding

2 emails



Dy. Chairperson

TH/EE

Subhash Chandra <vcdelhi-ship@nic.in >

Tue, 24 Mar 2026 11:28:33 AM +0530

To "Nitin Kumar Nim" <so-po@nic.in>

Cc "Dr. M. Angamuthu, IAS" <chairman.vpt@gov.in>, "M.T. Krishna Babu, IAS" <prlsecy_ii@ap.gov.in>, "Durgesh Kumar Dubey" <dychairman.vpt@gov.in>, "Chairman APPCB" <chairman@appcb.gov.in>, "Member Secretary APPCB" <membersecy@appcb.gov.in>, "Spl CS EFST" <splcs_efst@ap.gov.in>, "A. Subbarao" <zovsp-jcee@appcb.gov.in>, "EE, RO Visakhapatnam" <rovsp-ee1@appcb.gov.in>, "R Lakshmanan" <js-ports@nic.in>, "Samarth Verma" <samarth.verma1@gov.in>, "I G baines" <usports-psw@gov.in>, "VijaySinghNegi ASO" <vs.negi@nic.in>, "Akash Tigga" <akash.tigga@gov.in>

Please find the attached VC-Link for the above meeting

Issue of ban on Ammonium Nitrate imports through Vishakhapatnam Port | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams

From: Nitin Kumar Nim <so-po@nic.in>

To: "chairmanvpt" <chairman.vpt@gov.in>, "R" <prlsecy_ii@ap.gov.in>, "Durgesh Dubey" <dychairman.vpt@gov.in>, "CHAIRMAN APPCB" <chairman@appcb.gov.in>, "Member Secretary APPCB" <membersecy@appcb.gov.in>, "Spl EFST" <splcs_efst@ap.gov.in>, "JCEE, ZO VSP" <zovsp-jcee@appcb.gov.in>, "EE, RO Visakhapatnam" <rovsp-ee1@appcb.gov.in>

Cc: "JS Ports" <js-ports@nic.in>, "Samarth Verma" <samarth.verma1@gov.in>, "ISAACS GERARD BAINES" <usports-psw@gov.in>, "Subhash Chandra" <vcdelhi-ship@nic.in>, "Vijay Negi" <vs.negi@nic.in>, "Akash Tigga" <akash.tigga@gov.in>

Date: Tue, 24 Mar 2026 11:21:15 +0530

Subject: Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PSW) is to be held on 24.03.2026 at 2: 00 PM on the Issue of ban on Ammonium Nitrate imports through Vishakhapatnam Port - regarding

Respected Sir(s),

I am directed to inform that a meeting under the **Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PSW) is to be held on 24.03.2026 at 2:00 P.M.** under hybrid mode to discuss issues related to Ammonium Nitrate. The agenda of the meeting is to deliberate on the Issue of ban on Ammonium Nitrate imports through Visakhapatnam Port.

2. It is requested that the concerned officers may kindly attend the meeting. All addresses are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting through VC.

3. NIC team is requested to share the VC link for the above meeting.

Regards,

Nitin Kumar Nim
Section Officer, PD-III
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Government of India
New Delhi - 110001



विशाखपट्टणम पोर्ट प्राधिकरण
(पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय)
VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)

విశాఖపట్నం పోర్ట్ అథారిటీ
(శివరేవులు, నౌకాశ్రయము మరియు జలమార్గా మంత్రిత్వశాఖ, భారత ప్రభుత్వం)

NO.ITRA/SHP/FAMN
Dt. 27-03-2026

To
Sri. S SRISARVANAN
Member Secretary,
Andhra Pradesh Pollution control Board,
Dr.YSR Paryavaran Bhavan,
APIIC Colony Road, Gurunanak Colony,
Auto Nagar, Vijayawada.

Sir,

Sub: Request for relaxation in the restrictions imposed by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and APPCB on importing of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port – Expeditious action Requested.-Reg.

Ref:

1. EFS&T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I (1218399), Dt. 20.07.2022.
2. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ Mum, Dt: 09.09.2024.
3. Lr.No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024, Date: 25/09/2024 addressed to Chairman, VPA.
4. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ Mum, dt. 18.11.2024.
5. Traffic Manager VPA addressed a letter to DGFASLI, dt. 07.01.2025 & 04.02.2025.
6. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ Mum, Dt. 10.03.2025.
7. Chairperson, VPA letter dt. 18.03.2025.
8. T.O. Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024, dt.02-06-2025 addressed to Chairperson, VPA.
9. VPT letter dt.01.08.2025 to the Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI.
10. DGFASLI Lr. No. DS/Enf/2023/HQ-Mum, dt.13.08.2025.
11. Traffic Manager, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam letter dt.27.11.2025 received on 08.12.2025.



ISO 9001 :2015, ISO 14001
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

12. APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, Dt.10.12.2025 to the Director General, DGFASLI, Mumbai.
13. DGFASLI Lr. No. DS/Enf/2/2023/HQ-Mum, dt.19.03.2026.
14. APPCB Lr NO.724/APPCB/HO/CES/EFS&T/2026 dt. 21-03-2026

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Please refer to the above prime correspondence exchanged on the subject issue.

Member Secretary, vide reference 14th cited, requested VPA to furnish recommendation / remarks on the DGFASLI Report for taking further necessary action in the matter. In compliance, VPA has furnished point-wise remarks on the observations of the DGFASLI, which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-I**.

In this regard, it is also to inform that as directed in the letter 14<sup>th</sup> cited, a meeting was convened by VPA along with the members of the Committee constituted for the purpose on 25-03-2026. Several deliberations were made and the points raised by DGFASLI in their report was discussed in detail during the meeting. VPA reiterates its commitment to comply with all the recommendations of the Committee and the safety requirements stipulated by the competent authorities. Necessary measures have been initiated and will continue to be implemented diligently.

In view of the above, it is requested that the relaxation of restrictions imposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and APPCB on the import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port may kindly be **extended beyond 05.01.2024**, to facilitate continued handling of Ammonium Nitrate (Fertilizer Grade).

This will not only ensure uninterrupted port operations but also contribute to employment generation within Andhra Pradesh and support associated logistics and industrial activities across other States.

Yours sincerely,

  
DY CHAIRPERSON

- Copy to: The Secretary, MoPSW for information.  
Copy to: DPIIT, MoC, for information  
Copy to: Chairman, APPCB for information.  
Copy to: The District Collector, Visakhapatnam City, for information.  
Copy to: The Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam City, for information.  
Copy to: JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam  
Copy to:- The Asstt. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Ex. DLB Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Port Area, Visakhapatnam for information



Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam - 530 035 Phone : (91)+8912873900 Fax : (91) +891-2565023

विशाखपट्टणम पोर्ट प्राधिकरण, विशाखपट्टणम - 530 035 फोन : (91)+8912873900 फैक्स : (91) +891-2565023

E-mail : [tm.brs.vpt@gov.in](mailto:tm.brs.vpt@gov.in) E-mail : [tm.grsy.vpt@gov.in](mailto:tm.grsy.vpt@gov.in)

VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY  
DFGASLI OBSERVATIONS AND VPA REMARKS AS ON 27-03-2026

ANNEXURE-1

| Sl. No. | Committee Finding                                     | Key Issues Identified                                                                                                                                                                                   | Recommended Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Current Status Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Dept. | Remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1     | Lack of Dedicated Transportation and Route Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No dedicated vehicles for ammonium nitrate</li> <li>No earmarked routes or warning signage</li> <li>Absence of barriers/separation from other traffic</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate/ approve dedicated vehicles meeting safety standards.</li> <li>Notify and mark dedicated routes with signage.</li> <li>Provide physical barriers and segregation Measures.</li> </ul> | <p>Partial compliance observed.</p> <p>Certain preparatory actions based on earlier committee recommendations have been initiated; however, full implementation of dedicated vehicles, Designated routes, signage, and segregation measures has not been completed, as the port is presently not handling hazardous chemicals. These preparations will be strengthened before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.</p> | TM    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This port do not engage vehicles for transportation of cargo that is imported or exported through this port. The vehicles are engaged by the Stevedores / Importer. The Port allows only those vehicles which produce relevant certificates from RTO (copies enclosed), along with drivers and cleaners with valid Police verification certificate for handling ammonium nitrate.</li> <li>Ammonium nitrate is handled at dedicated berths of VPA i.e., EQ3 and EQ4 berths. All the vehicles designated for the subject berths move towards any one of the two gates i.e., MG gate or EQ7 gate.</li> </ol> <p>Route Map : - MG Gate/ EQ-7 Gate ---- H-7 RFID Gate/B Ramp ( after completion by NHAI)---- Port Connectivity Road.</p> <p><b>Drawing Enclosed.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage's are already provided for individual berths along with route maps for cargo movement. Whenever ammonium nitrate vessel berths, specific directions and designated routes are provided to the vehicles.</li> </ol> |
| 3.2     | Inadequate Safety and Emergency                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fire separation systems</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install fire</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                         | Partially complied. General emergency arrangements exist;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | DC    | Ammonium Nitrate storage is not permitted within the premises of Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|     | Measures                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ammonium nitrate-specific emergency plans</li> <li>MSDS not displayed or accessible</li> </ul> | <p>separation systems</p> <p>Develop AN-specific emergency response plans</p> <p>Display MSDS at all handling/storage locations</p>        | <p>however, fire separation systems, ammonium-nitrate-specific Emergency plans, and proper display of MSDS are not in place. These prearrangements will be strengthened before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.</p> | <p>However, during the handling of Ammonium Nitrate, stringent safety measures will be implemented.</p> <p>A Fire Tender along with a trained fire crew is kept on standby at the handling location to promptly respond to any incident and prevent the spread of fire. In addition, four (04) VPA Fire Tenders and three (03) Firefighting Tugs equipped with sea-going firefighting capabilities are deployed, as required, to effectively combat any scale of fire emergency.</p> <p>Further, in case of any additional requirement, assistance will be sought from the District Crisis Management Group, State Fire Services, NDRF, NDMA, and neighbouring industries to ensure a coordinated emergency response.</p> <p>Ammonium Nitrate specific Emergency Response Plan, is in place and a copy of the same is enclosed.</p> <p>During handling operations, the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is prominently displayed at the site to ensure adherence to safety protocols.</p> <p>AN specific emergency response plan is available (Copy attached) .Dos &amp; Dont's board in local language is displayed during handling of AN at the berth/location</p> |
| 3.3 | Insufficient Training and Competency Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specialized or refresher training</li> <li>No competency assessment mechanism</li> </ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct periodic AN-specific training</li> <li>Introduce competency assessment framework</li> </ul> | <p>Partially complied. General safety training has been conducted for a limited section of VPA staff; however, ammonium-nitrate-Specific training, a formal competency</p>                                                        | <p>DC/C ME/T M/C MO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ammonium Nitrate specific training programmes are organised by the HRDC/VPA for Stevedores, Agencies, and Private parties involved in cargo operations.</li> <li>The Dock workers engaged in the handling of Ammonium Nitrate are trained and assessed at regular intervals. The Port Management ensures that only trained and certified dock workers are</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|     |                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No hazardous material certification</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement mandatory certification programs</li> </ul> | <p>assessment mechanism, and certification for all employees are not in place. These Arrangements will be strengthened before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.</p> |         | <p>deployed for handling Ammonium Nitrate at the Port.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to the above, on 13.06.2025 VPA conducted Work Shop on handling of Hazardous Chemicals with co-ordination with DGFASLI for the employees, Terminal operators, interested parties and Port Users.</li> <li><b>VPA tied up with NDRF to conduct training scheduled on 08-04-2026</b></li> </ol> <p>Further all employees shall be placed in safety training handling hazardous chemicals hereafter.</p> <p>The SOPs( copy attached) are clearly explained to stevedores and all workers involved, in both classroom and onsite training programmes, which are regularly conducted to reinforce safety awareness and operational discipline.</p> <p>Additionally, training and certification programmes conducted by DGFASLI are ensured for stevedores, agencies, and cargo handlers.</p> <p>The Fire Department personnel have undergone CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) training, and periodic refresher training is imparted to ensure readiness in handling hazardous chemicals, including Ammonium Nitrate.</p> <p>Now, VPA is going to conduct one more Workshop on handling Hazardous Chemicals in the month of April in co-ordination with NDRF.</p> |
| 3.4 | Poor Maintenance and Inspection Protocols | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No equipment</li> </ul>                        | Establish-Maintenance &                                                                      | Partially complied. Regular maintenance and inspections are being carried out for                                                                                                | TM / DC | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular inspections are carried out by the Port Environment Cell, Fire Officer, Safety Officer, and Traffic Officials during the stay of vessels carrying Ammonium Nitrate at berth, to ensure</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|     |                            | <p>maintenance schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrequent or inadequate inspections.</li> <li>• Absence of periodic safety audits</li> </ul> | <p>replacement SOPs</p> <p>Conduct routine inspections</p> <p>Schedule periodic internal &amp; third- party safety audits</p> | <p>general port equipment. However, specific maintenance Schedules, inspection records, and safety audits related to ammonium nitrate handling will be implemented before resumption of chemical operations as quoted by VPA.</p> |       | <p>strict adherence to safety norms.(Inspection report attached)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The berths are maintained in a clean and orderly condition, in compliance with prescribed safety standards. The Port Authority also conducts continuous monitoring and periodic inspections across the port area to reinforce safety measures.</li> <li>3. Prior to the arrival of vessels, prior intimation to District Authorities, Naval authorities, Police Authorities, IB, Coast Guard, APPCB (copy enclosed) are issued to ensure operational preparedness. During cargo handling operations, any safety deficiencies observed are promptly addressed and rectified.</li> <li>4. A Safety Audit for handling of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA was conducted by DGFASLI in October 2022, (Document attached) and the recommendations are being implemented progressively.</li> <li>5. Safety wing has also taken approval from Competent Authority to conduct Safety Audit for Handling &amp; Transportation of Ammonium Nitrate (Fertiliser Grade) vide Sanction order IM&amp;EE/MOF/SO/AN/23-24/3016 Dt.14.12.2024 (Copy enclosed) and VPA is waiting for Ammonium Nitrate vessel.</li> <li>6. Further, VPA has conducted a third-party safety audit through M/s IRQS in May 2024. (Report enclosed) In addition, internal audits are carried out on a quarterly basis covering Occupational Environment, Health, and Safety management systems, in line with ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001 standards.</li> </ol> |
| 3.5 | Non-Compliance with Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incomplete/ missing onsite</li> </ul>                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare</li> </ul>                                                                   | Partially complied. Confusion between the                                                                                                                                                                                         | DC/CE | A comprehensive risk assessment study with respect to the handling of Ammonium Nitrate has been carried out                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|            | <p>Regulations &amp; Documentation</p>                       | <p>&amp; disaster plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor record-keeping</li> <li>• Non compliance with statutory evaluations</li> </ul>                                                                           | <p>Comprehensive disaster &amp; onsite plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen documentation &amp; record-keeping</li> <li>• Ensure compliance with all statutory safety provisions</li> </ul> | <p>on-site emergency plan and the disaster management plan was observed. Roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined, and the documentation is not fully in line with the relevant rules. The plans will be clarified, updated, and aligned with applicable regulations before handling hazardous chemicals as communicated by VPA.</p> | <p>through a third-party agency, based on which a detailed Disaster Management Plan (DMP) has been prepared (copy enclosed).</p> <p>VPA has both On-site and Off-site emergency plan which is already in place, where the roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and documentation is fully in line with the relevant rules. (Copy enclosed)</p> <p>All safety procedures, incident reports, and compliance measures are regularly communicated to IDS, Visakhapatnam to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective regulatory coordination.</p> <p>Further, IDS, Visakhapatnam undertakes inspections of the dock area, conducts regular safety evaluations, and ensures adherence to all applicable regulations and standards governing hazardous material handling, including Ammonium Nitrate.</p> |
| <p>3.6</p> | <p>Lack of Emergency Response &amp; Medical Preparedness</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No AN-specific incident response mechanism.</li> </ul> <p>Inadequate medical facilities &amp; trained staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comm and centre or</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop AN incident response system</li> <li>• Upgrade medical facilities &amp; train staff</li> </ul>                                                                       | <p>Partially complied. General emergency response arrangements and basic medical facilities are available; however, a specific incident response mechanism for Ammonium nitrate, trained medical Personnel, and a dedicated command and rapid response system are not in place. These arrangements will be strengthened</p>                    | <p>CMO Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has in place a comprehensive On-site and Off-site Emergency Plan, which was last updated in May 2024, to Address any contingencies arising from hazardous cargo handling, including Ammonium Nitrate.</p> <p>The Medical Department has developed an Emergency Medical Response Plan (Copy enclosed) to respond to incidents related to Ammonium Nitrate such as spills, leaks, and explosions. Regular First Aid training programmes are conducted, with specific focus on handling chemical hazards, including Ammonium Nitrate exposure through inhalation, skin contact, ingestion, and accidental spills.</p> <p>The response protocols include immediate First Aid measures such as decontamination with water, shifting</p>                                           |

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|     |                                 | rapid deployment plan                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish emergency command centre</li> </ul> | before handling hazardous chemicals as quoted by VPA.                                                                                                   | <p>affected persons to fresh air, oxygen administration, and other necessary medical interventions, including administration of appropriate antidotes and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) wherever required.</p> <p>VPA also has a dedicated Command Centre and Rapid Response Team in Medical Department along with a dedicated Emergency Response Team to ensure coordinated and swift action during emergencies.</p> <p>The team is equipped to mobilize first aid resources, administer necessary treatment, and undertake triage of affected personnel to Vizag Port's GJH Hospital and to local empanelled hospitals if tertiary care is needed.</p> <p>Two training programmes were conducted for the doctors, staff nurses and first-aiders regarding the incidents related to ammonium nitrate handling in the dock area of VPA by the Head of the Critical Care Department of Medicover Hospital, Visakhapatnam on 16.02.2026 and 20.02.2026</p> <p>Further, arrangements are in place for the prompt evacuation and transportation of severely affected persons to empanelled hospitals for advanced medical treatment, ensuring an efficient and well-coordinated emergency medical response system.</p> |
| 3.7 | Inadequate Fire Safety Measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No automatic fire suppression systems</li> <li>No regular fire /evacuation drills</li> <li>Insufficient fire fighting</li> </ul> | <p>Install AN-appropriate fire suppression systems</p> <p>Conduct regular drills</p> | Partially complied. Firefighting teams are trained and basic fire safety arrangements are available. It has been informed by VPA that ammonium-nitrate- | DC <p>Ammonium Nitrate storage is not permitted for storage within the premises of Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA). However, during the handling of Ammonium Nitrate, robust fire safety measures are strictly implemented.</p> <p>A Fire Tender along with a trained fire crew is kept on standby at the handling location to promptly respond to any incident and prevent the spread of fire. In addition,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|     |                                                 | equipment & training                                                                                                        | & mock exercises<br>Train and quip firefighting teams                                                                                                        | specific fire protection systems, drills involving all employees, and related arrangements will be put in place at the time of handling hazardous chemicals.                                                                   | <p>four (04) VPA Fire Tenders and three (03) Firefighting Tugs equipped with sea-going firefighting capabilities are deployed to effectively combat any magnitude of fire emergency.</p> <p>In case of any escalation or additional requirement, assistance will be sought from the District Crisis Management Group, State Fire Services, NDRF, NDMA, and neighbouring industries to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive emergency response.</p> <p>Regular fire drills are conducted to assess preparedness and response efficiency. Evacuation procedures and fire response protocols specific to Ammonium Nitrate handling are systematically imparted to all concerned workers and personnel.</p> <p>VPA maintains a dedicated Fire Brigade, comprising trained firefighting personnel equipped with appropriate firefighting gear and resources, capable of effectively handling fire incidents associated with Ammonium Nitrate operations.</p> |
| 3.8 | Poor Chemical Compatibility & Storage Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No chemical compatibility assessment</li> <li>Improper storage conditions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out chemical compatibility studies</li> <li>Improve storage conditions (temp, humidity, segregation)</li> </ul> | General storage practices are followed; however, chemical compatibility assessment, ammonium- nitrate-specific storage conditions, and periodic inspections are not in place at present, as the port is not handling hazardous | <p>DC/T<br/>M/C<br/>ME</p> <p>Ammonium Nitrate (AN) storage is not permitted within the premises of Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), and no dedicated storage facility exists within the Port area for this cargo.</p> <p>However, during the handling of Ammonium Nitrate, adequate precautionary measures are strictly followed. Adjacent berths are either kept vacant or permitted to handle only compatible cargo, in order to minimize risk and ensure safe operational conditions.</p> <p>These measures are implemented to maintain segregation, safety, and risk mitigation during the handling of Ammonium Nitrate at the Port.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|     |                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No periodic storage inspections</li> </ul>                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct routine storage audits</li> </ul>                                                                                                               | chemicals. VPA has informed that all required measures will be implemented prior to handling of ammonium nitrate.                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.9 | Inadequate Community Safety & Awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No community awareness programs</li> <li>• Emergency contact details not accessible</li> <li>• Weak coordination with local responders</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch community awareness initiatives</li> <li>• Publicize emergency contact mechanisms</li> <li>• Conduct joint drills with local agencies</li> </ul> | <p>No data or records related to community awareness programs, emergency contact dissemination, or coordination with local emergency services were made available during the committee visit. VPA has informed that such measures will be developed and implemented prior to handling ammonium nitrate.</p> | HRD<br>C/DC<br>/CME | <p>Periodical Community awareness programme will be organised by VPA at different localities. Further, specific programmes will be conducted before arrival of vessel in order to create most awareness and alertness among the local communities.</p> <p>The handling of Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) is carried out away from local habitations, ensuring minimal risk to nearby communities.</p> <p>Regular awareness programmes are conducted for all concerned staff, workers, and personnel in the vicinity to sensitise them on Do's and Don'ts during emergencies related to Ammonium Nitrate handling.</p> <p>Emergency contact information is prominently displayed and is periodically updated to ensure timely communication and response during any incident.</p> <p>Regular interactions involving awareness are held with local communities and public representatives residing in the close proximity of VPA.</p> <p>Further, regular mock drills are conducted involving all key stakeholders, including the NDRF, NDMA, CISF, State Fire Services, and other concerned agencies, to enhance preparedness, coordination, and response effectiveness in emergency situations.</p> |

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| <p><b>3.10</b></p> | <p>Absence of Periodic Review of Safety Policies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety policies not reviewed periodically</li> <li>• Inconsistent application of regulations</li> <li>• No performance tracking</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute periodic policy review mechanism</li> <li>• Ensure uniform enforcement of safety rules</li> <li>• Introduce safety performance indicators</li> </ul> | <p>Very less documented evidence of periodic review of safety policies, consistent application of safety regulations, or performance tracking of safety systems was made available during the committee visit. VPA has informed that a formal review and monitoring mechanism will be put in place prior to handling hazardous chemicals.</p> | <p>DC/C<br/>ME/T<br/>M</p> | <p>The policies of Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) are reviewed and updated periodically, to align with evolving safety and regulatory requirements. (Copy Attached)</p> <p>The Safety &amp; Health Policy, declared in 2020 and duly approved and signed by the Chairperson, forms the foundation of VPA’s safety governance framework. The Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Policy was updated in April 2024 to further strengthen safety and environmental safeguards.</p> <p>The Safety Health Environment and Quality (SHEQ) is reviewed once in a year during the period of conducting external ISO Audit in VPA</p> <p>VPA undertakes proactive measures to prevent accidents during cargo handling operations by strictly enforcing safety precautions and adherence to prescribed procedures. Regular inspections are conducted to ensure compliance with Safety Audit recommendations, Safety Rules, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).</p> <p>It is pertinent to mention that, with effect from 05.01.2024, handling of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA has been discontinued in compliance with the directions of the APPCB</p> <p>Prior to the said discontinuation, VPA ensured strict adherence to all safety norms during the handling of Ammonium Nitrate, including continuous monitoring of operations to ensure safe handling practices. Additionally, intimation was invariably given to the District Administration, IB, Naval Authorities and Police Authorities prior to commencement of such operations, ensuring coordination with local authorities.</p> |
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| <p>3.11</p> | <p>Insufficient PPE for Ammonium Nitrate Handling</p> | <p>Inadequate PPE availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No PPE inspection/ replacement system</li> <li>Poor PPE usage training</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide Appropriate PPE</li> <li>Implement PPE inspection &amp; replacement schedule</li> <li>Conduct PPE usage training</li> </ul> | <p>Limited PPE was available at the port. As informed by VPA, appropriate PPE and related training will be provided in line with requirements at the time of commencement of Ammonium nitrate handling.</p> | <p>CME/TM</p>      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) ensures the adequate provision and mandatory usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as safety helmets, safety shoes, nose masks/ respirators, safety goggles, and hand gloves for all workmen engaged in cargo handling operations.</li> <li>2. Strict instructions were given to CISF at the Dock entry gates to allow only those persons, who wear appropriate PPE.</li> <li>3. A PPE Register is duly maintained to monitor distribution and compliance. Further, VPA is having sufficient BA Sets &amp; Fire Suits.</li> <li>4. VPA safety wing &amp; Fire Wing conducted Tool Box Talk / safety Awareness classes before starting of the handling in each shift</li> </ol> <p>In addition, Eye Wash and Body Wash Stations have been strategically installed at required locations to Address emergency exposure to hazardous substances.</p> <p>VPA maintains a continuous monitoring and follow-up mechanism to ensure proper usage of PPE by personnel, along with timely replacement of damaged or worn-out equipment.</p> |
| <p>3.12</p> | <p>Inadequate Security of Storage Areas</p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No physical security barriers</li> <li>Lack of surveillance systems</li> <li>No access control</li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install fencing &amp; barriers</li> <li>Deploy CCTV &amp; monitoring systems</li> </ul>                                             | <p>General security of the port is being handled by CISF, whose deployment is beyond the port boundary. CISF personnel are not involved in training related to ammonium nitrate-specific physical s</p>     | <p>TM/CME/CISF</p> | <p>Whenever a vessel carrying Ammonium Nitrate arrives at the Port, temporary barricades are erected around the operational area for the entire duration of the vessel's stay at berth. This is implemented in addition to the comprehensive precautionary measures already in place to prevent any potential mishap.</p> <p>It is reiterated that no storage facility for Ammonium Nitrate exists within the Port premises, and storage of the cargo is not permitted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|      |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     | plement access control protocols                                                                                                                                                     | ecurity, surveillance, access control, and coordination mechanisms will be put in place at the time of handling hazardous chemicals, as informed by VPA.                                                                                                                                                                |       | Ammonium Nitrate specific training programmes are organised by the HRDC/VPA for CISF personnel also along with the Agencies, and Private parties involved in cargo operations.<br><br>The CISF personnel are trained in areas of Physical security, surveillance, access control and other coordination mechanisms in place during handling of Ammonium Nitrate cargo.<br><br>Further, strict access control measures are enforced within the Dock Area. Entry of personnel and vehicles is regulated through a valid pass system, duly issued and approved by the authorized signatory of the Port, ensuring controlled and secure movement within operational zones.<br><br>VPA also tied up with NDRF to conduct training scheduled on 08-04-2026. |
| 3.13 | Deficient Training & Continuous Capacity Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specialized AN handling courses</li> <li>• No competency validation</li> <li>• Absence of refresher training</li> </ul> | <p>Introduce specialized AN training modules</p> <p>Implement competency assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct refresher programs periodically</li> </ul> | General safety training is being conducted at the port. Fire-related training is presently being handled by the Fire Department; however, the Safety Department is not fully involved, and integration of fire safety functions under the Safety framework is lacking. Specialized training, competency assessment, and | DC/CE | <p>Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) conducts regular training programmes for all categories of employees to enhance safety awareness and operational competency.</p> <p>VPA is also engaging external expert trainers to further strengthen training quality and incorporate best practices in hazardous cargo handling, including Ammonium Nitrate.</p> <p>Specialized training and competency assessment, along with refresher programs specific to ammonium nitrate handling are conducted at HRDC / VPA whenever such cargoes are handled.</p> <p>VPA tied up with NDRF to conduct training scheduled on 08-04-2026.</p>                                                                                                                        |

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|      |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                              | <p>refresher programs specific to ammonium nitrate handling are not in place at present, as the port is not handling hazardous chemicals . VPA has informed that integrated training and assessment mechanisms under the Safety Department will be implemented prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.</p> | <p>Training programmes are conducted at regular intervals in a cyclical manner, ensuring that all employees are periodically covered and refreshed, thereby maintaining a consistently high level of preparedness and safety consciousness across the workforce.</p> <p>Fire Staff conducted Training in each shift to all the workers related to Ammonium Nitrate handling and explained about DO's &amp; Don'ts. In addition, it is submitted that on 13.06.2025 VPA conducted Work Shop on handling of Hazardous Chemicals with coloration of DGFASLI for the employees, Terminal operators, interested parties and Port Users.</p> <p>Now, VPA is going to conduct one more Workshop on handling Hazardous Chemicals in the month of April in co-ordination with NDRF.</p> |
| 3.14 | Inadequate Emergency Medical Response | <p>No on-site medical facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient first-aid preparedness</li> <li>• No coordination with hospitals</li> </ul> | <p>Establish on-site medical facilities</p> <p>Train staff in chemical first aid</p> <p>Formalize tie-ups with hospitals</p> | <p>The port medical team has basic medical facilities and a list of empanelled hospitals. The medical staff possess related knowledge; however, full-fledged training on chemical exposure, triage, and off-site emergency response is not in place.</p> <p>Formal communication of</p>                                | <p>CMO</p> <p>Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has established a robust medical infrastructure to support cargo handling operations, including hazardous materials such as Ammonium Nitrate.</p> <p>A First Aid Centre, staffed with trained first aid personnel, is located in close proximity to cargo handling areas. In addition, VPA operates a fully equipped 24x7 hospital, with qualified medical doctors, nursing staff, and trained first aiders. A 24-hour ambulance facility is also available within a radius of approximately 1 km from the cargo handling zones, ensuring rapid medical response.</p> <p>VPA also has a dedicated Command Centre and Rapid Response Team in Medical Department along with a</p>                                               |

|  |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  | <p>Empanelment and emergency medical arrangements with District Authorities has also not been carried out. As informed by VPA, training and coordination mechanisms will be strengthened prior to Commencement of ammonium Nitrate handling.</p> | <p>dedicated Emergency Response Team to ensure coordinated and swift action during emergencies.</p> <p>The team is equipped to mobilize first aid resources, administer necessary treatment, and undertake triage of affected personnel to Vizag Port's GJH Hospital and to local empanelled hospitals if tertiary care is needed</p> <p>Regular First Aid training programmes are conducted for staff, with specific focus on chemical exposure scenarios, including those related to Ammonium Nitrate handling. All necessary first aid equipment and medical supplies are maintained in adequate quantities and kept readily accessible.</p> <p>Further, VPA has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with reputed multi-specialty hospitals in the vicinity, which are empanelled to provide both elective and emergency medical care to VPA personnel at all times. In the event of any major incident or mass casualty situation, these empanelled hospitals are promptly alerted to coordinate with the VPA Medical Department, ensuring timely and effective medical response.</p> <p>Empanelment and emergency medical arrangements with District Authorities is enclosed.</p> <p>All the Local multi-specialty hospitals empanelled with VPA for providing both out-patient, in-patient and multi-specialty critical care will provide immediate medical care to the patients affected by the incidents related to the handling of ammonium nitrate.</p> |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|      |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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|      |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |       | <p>Emergency Medical arrangements with District Authorities will be initiated by the VPA management during the incidents of ammonium nitrate handling</p> <p>Two training programmes were conducted for the doctors, staff nurses and first-aiders regarding the incidents related to ammonium nitrate handling in the dock area of VPA by the Head of the Critical Care Department of Medicover Hospital, Visakhapatnam on 16.02.2026 and 20.02.2026.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.15 | Weak Community Communication Framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public education initiatives</li> <li>Emergency information not disseminated</li> <li>No stakeholder engagement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct public education campaigns</li> <li>Disseminate emergency Information widely</li> <li>Engage community stakeholders regularly</li> </ul> | <p>No structured community education or regular communication mechanism with local stakeholders was observed. Emergency contact information for the public has not been formally disseminated. As informed by VPA, community communication and awareness measures will be developed and implemented prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling.</p> | DC/TM | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handling of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) at Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) is carried out in an isolated area, away from local habitations, to minimize risk to surrounding communities.</li> <li>Regular and periodic safety and awareness training programmes are conducted for workers, stevedores, and agents operating in and around the concerned berths, with specific focus on the risks associated with Ammonium Nitrate handling.</li> <li>Emergency contact information is made readily available through official websites and designated community points, ensuring accessibility for all stakeholders.</li> <li>Regular interactions involving awareness are held with local communities and public representatives residing in the close proximity of VPA.</li> <li>VPA officials conduct periodic mock drills involving workers and vehicle drivers to enhance preparedness and response capabilities during emergency situations.</li> <li>In addition, awareness sessions are conducted at the worksite prior to each shift, wherein workers and drivers are briefed on safety protocols,</li> </ol> |

|      |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|      |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |       | hazard identification, and emergency response measures, thereby reinforcing a strong safety culture at the operational level.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3.16 | Lack of Fire Protection & Emergency Preparedness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No AN-specific fire suppression systems</li> <li>• Irregular fire drills</li> </ul> <p>No fire safety documentation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install suitable fire protection systems</li> <li>• Conduct regular drills</li> <li>• Prepare and update fire safety plans</li> </ul> | Basic fire-fighting facilities are available at the port; however, dedicated fire protection systems, documented fire safety plans, and regular emergency drills specific to ammonium nitrate are not in place at present, as the port is not handling hazardous chemicals. VPA has informed that all required fire protection systems, emergency preparedness measures, and documentation will be put in place at the time of handling ammonium nitrate. | DC/CE | <p>Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has established fire protection systems at cargo stack yards and berths to ensure safety during cargo operations. At the time of berthing of vessels carrying Ammonium Nitrate (AN), enhanced fire safety measures are implemented, including deployment of fire tenders and fire monitors at the operational location.</p> <p>In respect of newly constructed covered storage sheds for dusty cargo, VPA has proposed the installation of a dedicated fire hydrant line at the Ammonium Nitrate handling berth to further strengthen fire protection infrastructure.</p> <p>Regular mock drills are conducted involving all key stakeholders, including the NDRF, NDMA, CISF, State Fire Services, and other concerned agencies, to ensure that all personnel are well-versed in fire response procedures and can respond swiftly and effectively in case of emergencies. (List of Mock Drills conducted enclosed)</p> <p>Comprehensive Fire Safety Plans are in place, outlining detailed procedures to be followed in the event of a fire involving Ammonium Nitrate. These plans are periodically reviewed and updated to align with evolving safety standards and operational requirements.</p> <p>Updated fire safety plan is available copy of the same is enclosed.</p> |

|      |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|      |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          | The detailed hazard & Risk Assessment also available in DMP of VPA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.17 | Absence of On-Site Emergency Plan (MSIHC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-site emergency plan not available</li> <li>Inadequate disaster documentation</li> <li>QRA inadequate for large AN quantity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare MSIHC-compliant on-site emergency plan</li> <li>Conduct detailed hazard &amp; risk assessment</li> <li>Update disaster management documents</li> </ul> | An independent on-site emergency plan specific to ammonium nitrate was not available during the visit. The disaster management plan was being used in place of a separate on-site emergency plan, and the distinction between on-site and off-site arrangements was not clearly documented. Hazard identification and risk assessment were limited in scope. As informed by VPA, a detailed on-site emergency plan in line with applicable rules and a comprehensive risk assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling. | DC       | <p>Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has in place a comprehensive On-site and Off-site Emergency Plan, Fire Action Plan, Emergency Action Plan, Disaster Management Plan which was last updated in May 2024, to effectively address contingencies arising from hazardous cargo handling, including Ammonium Nitrate. (Copy enclosed)</p> <p>A detailed Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) study specific to Ammonium Nitrate handling has been carried out, and a copy of the same is enclosed.</p> <p>VPA has also prepared a Disaster Management Plan (DMP), which was updated in May 2024 and duly vetted by the District Collectorate and District Magistrate, ensuring alignment with district-level emergency response frameworks.</p> |
| 3.18 | No Follow-up on Earlier                   | Past recommendations not tracked                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish follow-up &amp;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                           | Records indicating systematic follow-up or compliance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DC/CME/T | VPA ensures that all agencies involved in the handling of Ammonium Nitrate possess valid licences/authorisations for activities such as unloading and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|  |                      |                                                  |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|  | Committee Directives | Accountability not fixed<br>No compliance audits | monitoring mechanism<br>Assign responsibility<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct compliance audits</li> </ul> | tracking of directives issued by earlier committees were not made available during the visit. As informed by VPA, a mechanism for monitoring, assigning responsibility, and periodic review of earlier recommendations will be established prior to commencement of ammonium nitrate handling. | M/C<br>MO | <p>transportation, in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Prior to commencement of handling operations, advance intimation is invariably provided to the District Administration, IB, Naval Authorities and Police authorities, ensuring coordination with local enforcement and emergency response agencies.</p> <p>A dedicated Fire Brigade, equipped with trained personnel and necessary firefighting resources, is deployed and maintained in readiness at the Ammonium Nitrate handling area to ensure immediate response capability.</p> <p>At present, handling of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA stands discontinued/under ban, in compliance with the directions of the competent authority. Upon receipt of necessary clearances and permission for resumption of operations, VPA proposes to engage DGFASLI for conducting a comprehensive Safety Audit, prior to recommencement of handling activities.</p> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



विशाखपट्टणम पोर्ट प्राधिकरण  
(पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय)  
VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY  
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)  
విశాఖపట్టణ పోర్ట్ అథారిటీ  
(ఓడరేవులు, నౌకాశ్రయము మరియు జలమార్గా మంత్రిత్వశాఖ, భారత ప్రభుత్వం)

NO.ITRA/SHP/FAMN  
Dt. 27-03-2026

To

Sri. S SRISARVANAN  
Member Secretary,  
Andhra Pradesh Pollution control Board,  
Dr. YSR Paryavaran Bhavan,  
APIIC Colony Road, Gurunanak Colony,  
Auto Nagar, Vijayawada.

Sir,

Sub: Request for relaxation in the restrictions imposed by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and APPCB on importing of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port – Expeditious action Requested – Submission of Undertaking - Reg.

Ref:

1. APPCB Lr NO.724/APPCB/HO/CES/EFS&T/2026 dt. 21-03-2026.
2. This Office Lr. No. NO.ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Dt. 27-03-2026

Member Secretary, vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, requested VPA to furnish recommendation / remarks on the DGFASLI Report for taking further necessary action. In compliance, VPA has furnished point-wise remarks vide this office letter 2<sup>nd</sup> cited.

In continuation to the above, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, do hereby solemnly undertake that:

- **End-to-End operations**, including berthing, unloading, handling, and evacuation of Ammonium Nitrate cargo, shall be undertaken with **utmost adherence to prescribed Safety Norms, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Risk Mitigation Protocols.**
- **All requisite statutory permissions, licences, and clearances** from Concerned Authorities shall be obtained prior to commencement of operations.
- **Dedicated and clearly demarcated routes** shall be identified for the movement of Ammonium Nitrate cargo within and beyond the Port area, ensuring minimal public interface and enhanced operational safety.



Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam - 530 035 Phone : (91)+8912873900 Fax : (91) +891-2565023

విశాఖపట్టణ పోర్ట్ ప్రాధికరణ, విశాఖపట్టణం - 530 035 ఫోన్ : (91)+8912873900 ఫేక్స్ : (91) +891-2565023  
E-mail [tm.brsr.vpt@gov.in](mailto:tm.brsr.vpt@gov.in)



ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

- **Robust medical emergency preparedness** shall be ensured, including tie-ups with nearby hospitals, availability of first-aid facilities, emergency medical response teams, and quick evacuation mechanisms for handling contingencies.
- **On-site and Off-site Emergency Response Plans** shall be in place, duly approved by the competent authorities, with clearly defined roles, communication protocols, and coordination mechanisms with District Administration, Police, Fire Services, and Disaster Management Authorities.
- **Dedicated Fire-Fighting systems, Trained personnel, and Emergency response equipment** shall be deployed at all times during handling operations to address any exigencies promptly and effectively.
- **Mandatory use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** by all personnel involved in handling operations shall be strictly enforced.
- **Periodic Safety Audits, Mock drills, and Inspections** shall be conducted to ensure preparedness and continuous improvement in safety standards.
- **Community awareness and Outreach programmes** shall be undertaken at regular intervals to sensitise nearby stakeholders and local population regarding safety measures, emergency response actions, and precautionary protocols.
- Handling shall be undertaken only at **Designated and Adequately Equipped berths**, with strict control measures to prevent any unauthorized access or unsafe practices.

Hence it is once again requested to remove restriction on handling of Ammonium Nitrate vessels at VPA.

Yours sincerely,

  
CHAIRPERSON

Copy to: The Secretary, MoPSW for information.

Copy to: DPIIT, MoC, for information

Copy to: Chairman, APPCB for information.

Copy to: The District Collector, Visakhapatnam City, for information.

Copy to: The Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam City, for information.

Copy to: JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam

Copy to:- The Asstt. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Ex. DLB Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Port Area, Visakhapatnam for information





**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

APIIC Colony Road, Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar,  
Vijayawada- 520007 Phone. No.0866-2463200,  
Website: <https://pcb.ap.gov.in/>



**Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024-**

**Date: 30-03-2026**

**To**  
**The Chairperson**  
**Visakhapatnam Port Authority,**  
**Port Area, Visakhapatnam.**

**Sir,**

**Sub.:** APPCB – HO – ECS – Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) – Restrictions on import of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam – Request of VPA for import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port – DGFALSI report dated: 19.03.2026 on adequacy of safety measures by VPA for import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate - Forwarded - Detailed plan of action and specific times to achieve compliance for each recommendation – Reg.

- Ref.:**
1. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ Mum, Dt.09.09.2024.
  2. Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024, dt.25.09.2024 addressed to Chairman, VPA.
  3. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr.No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ Mum, Dt.18.11.2024.
  4. Traffic Manager VPA addressed a letter to DGFASLI, dt. 07.01.2025 & 04.02.2025.
  5. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ Mum, dt.10.03.2025.
  6. Chairperson, VPA letter dt.18.03.2025.
  7. Lr. No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024, Date: 02-06-2025.
  8. VPT letter dt.01.08.2025 to the Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI
  9. DGFASLI Lr. No. DS/Enf/2023/HQ-Mum, dt.13.08.2025.
  10. Traffic Manager, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam letter dt.27.11.2025 received on 08.12.2025.
  11. APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, dt.10.12.2025 to the Director General, DGFLAI, Mumbai.
  12. DGFASLI Lr. No. DS/Enf/2/2023/HQ-Mum, dt.19.03.2026.
  13. Lr. No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2026, dt.21.03.2026.
  14. Committee meeting held on 25.03.2026 at Visakhapatnam.
  15. Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority undertaking letter dt.27.03.2026

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In continuation to the letter dated: 27.11.2025 received from VPA vide ref.10th cited, the APPCB (vide ref.11<sup>th</sup> cited) requested DGFASLI for a report on adequacy of safety measures by Visakhapatnam Port Authority at Visakhapatnam Port for import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate for taking further action.

Vide ref. 12th cited, the DGFASLI through letter dt.19.03.2026 furnished a report, outlined that the VPA is presently not handling Ammonium nitrate and that most systems specific to hazardous chemical operations are either not in place or are only partially developed. While certain general safety arrangements exist, significant gaps were identified in critical areas such as dedicated transportation routes, AN-specific emergency plans, fire protection systems, training and competency assessment, maintenance protocols, community awareness, and compliance monitoring mechanisms. A copy of the above letter together with compiled report on Key issues identified, recommended actions, and status report as assessed by the committee & additional comments are herewith forwarded for information.

The APPCB vide ref. 13th cited, communicated the DGFASLI report dated: 19.03.2026 to the Committee comprising of CEE, APPCB; PESO; Factories Dept., VPA; Coal India Ltd; EMWA, and JCEE, ZO, Visakhapatnam as convener of the Committee (constituted by the EFST Dept., GoAP vide letter dated: 20.07.2022) to furnish recommendations/remarks on the DGFASLI report for taking further necessary action. Accordingly, the JCEE, Zonal office, Visakhapatnam convened a meeting with the constituted committee members on 25.03.2026 at Visakhapatnam.

Vide ref. 15<sup>th</sup> cited, the Chairperson, VPA proposed implementation of certain safety measures before resuming import & handling of Ammonium nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam through an undertaking. Upon careful perusal of the above, it is opined that the VPA shall furnish detailed plan of action on implementation of the DGFASLI recommendations enumerated in reports dated: 09.09.2024 and 19.03.2026 for point wise and specific time lines to achieve full compliance by VPA for import and handling of AN through Visakhapatnam port, to take necessary action.

In view of the above, the Chairperson, VPA is requested to furnish detailed compliance report along with component wise plan of action with specific time lines w.r.t. the DGFASLI reports dt.09.09.2024 and 19.03.2026, to achieve full compliance on adequacy of the safety measures for import, storage & handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port at an early date, for taking necessary further action in the matter.

Yours faithfully

**S SRISARAVANAN, I.F.S**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

**Encl:**  
**DGFASLI report dt.19.03.2026**

**Copy to:**

1. CEE, APPCB, Head Office, Vijayawada for information.
2. JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
3. EE, APPCB, RO, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.



**विशाखपट्टणम पोर्ट प्राधिकरण**  
(पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय)  
**VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY**  
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)  
**విశాఖపట్టణ పోర్ట్ అథారిటీ**  
(ఉదరవులు, నౌకాశ్రయము మరియు జలమార్గా మంత్రిత్వశాఖ, భారత ప్రభుత్వం)

36

To  
The Member Secretary  
Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board  
Vijayawada

NO.ITRA/SHP/AMN  
Dt. 02-04-2026

Sir,

Sub: APPCB – Restrictions on import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through Visakhapatnam Port – Submission of detailed compliance status, action plan with timelines, and clarifications on DGFASLI observations – Reg.  
Ref: APPCB Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024, dated 30-03-2026

\*\*\*

With reference to the letter cited, Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) hereby submits this Detailed Compliance Report in respect of the recommendations contained in the DGFASLI reports dated 09.09.2024 and 19.03.2026, as sought by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB).

At the outset, it is submitted that VPA is presently not undertaking handling, storage, or transportation of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) within the port premises. The observations recorded in the DGFASLI report dated 19.03.2026 are largely contextual to this non-operational status and therefore reflect gaps in operational deployment rather than absence of institutional safety systems. Nevertheless, VPA has undertaken a comprehensive review of all recommendations and has initiated and implemented necessary measures in a time-bound manner to ensure full compliance prior to commencement of operations.

VPA submits that it has an established Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) framework supported by ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001 systems, along with periodic internal and external audits. The port has also developed and implemented standard operating procedures, emergency response mechanisms, and coordination protocols with all concerned statutory authorities for safe handling of hazardous cargo, including Ammonium Nitrate.

Further, while the Committee has observed partial compliance in certain areas, it is respectfully submitted that many of the observations are contextual to non-operational status of Ammonium Nitrate handling at present, and several systems are designed to be activated at the time of actual handling operations.

A point-wise reply along with present status and proposed action plan is submitted below:



ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

### Sl. No. 3.1 Transportation and Route Management

It is submitted that VPA does not directly engage transportation vehicles; the same are arranged by stevedores/importers. However, only vehicles complying with statutory requirements (valid RTO certification and police verification of personnel) are permitted.

Dedicated berths (EQ-3 & EQ-4) and defined movement routes (MG Gate/EQ-7 Gate to port connectivity corridors) are already identified and utilized. Signages and route maps are in place and specific instructions are issued during vessel operations.

Action Plan: Strengthening of route demarcation, additional signage, and segregation measures prior to commencement of operations.

Timeline: Completed.

### Sl. No. 3.2 Safety and Emergency Measures

It is submitted that comprehensive emergency response mechanisms are already in place. Fire tenders, firefighting tugs, and trained crews are deployed during handling operations. AN-specific Emergency Response Plan is prepared and MSDS is displayed at site during operations.

Action Plan: Augmentation of fire separation systems and strengthening of AN-specific arrangements.

Timeline: Completed.

### Sl. No. 3.3 Training and Competency

Regular training programs are conducted through HRDC, including AN-specific modules for stevedores and workers. Workshops have been conducted in coordination with DGFASLI and further training is scheduled with NDRF.

Only trained and certified personnel are deployed for handling hazardous cargo.

Action Plan: Expansion of certification coverage and periodic refresher training for all stakeholders.

Timeline: Ongoing; full coverage before operations.

### Sl. No. 3.4 Maintenance and Inspection

Regular inspections are conducted by Safety, Fire, Environment, and Traffic departments. Internal audits and third-party audits (including DGFASLI and IRQS) have been carried out.





ISO 9001 :2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

Action Plan: Strengthening documentation, AN-specific SOPs, and periodic audit systems.  
Timeline: Continuous; fully aligned.

### Sl. No. 3.5 Compliance & Documentation

It is submitted that both On-site and Off-site Emergency Plans are already in place, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. A detailed Disaster Management Plan based on risk assessment has also been prepared.

Action Plan: Further alignment and updating of documentation as per latest regulatory requirements.  
Timeline: Immediate and ongoing.

### Sl. No. 3.6 Emergency Response & Medical Preparedness

A comprehensive Emergency Medical Response Plan is operational. Dedicated medical teams, command centre, and rapid response mechanisms are in place. Training programs for medical staff have been conducted.

Action Plan: Enhancement of specialized response systems for AN-related contingencies.  
Timeline: Completed.

### Sl. No. 3.7 Fire Safety Measures

Dedicated fire brigade, equipment, and trained personnel are available. Regular mock drills and emergency preparedness exercises are conducted.

Action Plan: Strengthening AN-specific fire protection systems and full-scale drills.  
Timeline: Completed.

### Sl. No. 3.8 Storage & Chemical Safety

It is reiterated that storage of Ammonium Nitrate is not permitted within VPA premises. Handling is limited to transit operations under controlled conditions.

Action Plan: Implementation of compatibility assessments and enhanced safety protocols during handling.  
Timeline: Before handling operations.





ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

### Sl. No. 3.9 Community Awareness & Coordination

Coordination with district authorities, emergency services, and other stakeholders is undertaken prior to vessel arrival.

Action Plan: Formalization of community awareness programs and joint drills with local agencies.

Timeline: Implemented.

### Sl. Nos. 3.10 Policy Review, PPE, Security, etc.

VPA has established internal audit mechanisms, PPE provisions, CISF-based security systems, and periodic safety reviews.

Action Plan: Strengthening performance monitoring, PPE systems, surveillance, and periodic review mechanisms.

Timeline: Implemented.

### Inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Management

It is submitted that adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as helmets, gloves, safety shoes, goggles, dust masks/respirators, and protective clothing are mandated for all personnel involved in cargo handling operations, including hazardous cargo.

VPA ensures that:

- Only personnel equipped with appropriate PPE are permitted in operational areas.
- Periodic inspections are carried out by Safety Officers to ensure compliance.
- Awareness on proper usage of PPE is imparted through regular training programmes.

Action Plan:

Standardization of PPE specific to Ammonium Nitrate handling, strengthening inventory control, and periodic audits.

Timeline: Ensured prior to commencement of Ammonium Nitrate handling operations.

### Sl. No. 3.12 – Lack of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for AN Handling

It is submitted that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for handling hazardous cargo, including Ammonium Nitrate, are already in place and are disseminated to all stakeholders.





ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

The SOPs are:

- Explained during classroom and onsite training sessions.
- Made available at operational locations.
- Periodically reviewed and updated in line with regulatory requirements.

Action Plan:

Further refinement and circulation of AN-specific SOPs incorporating DGFASLI recommendations.

Timeline: Completed

Sl. No. 3.13 – Insufficient Monitoring & Surveillance Systems

VPA is equipped with surveillance systems including CCTV monitoring at critical operational areas, supported by CISF security arrangements.

Access control measures are in place, and movement of vehicles and personnel is regulated through gate management systems and RFID mechanisms.

Action Plan:

Enhancement of surveillance coverage at designated AN handling locations and integration with central monitoring systems.

Timeline: Completed.

Sl. No. 3.14 – Lack of Coordination with External Agencies

It is submitted that VPA maintains close coordination with District Administration, Police, Fire Services, Coast Guard, Navy, NDRF, and other emergency response agencies.

Prior intimation is given before arrival of vessels carrying hazardous cargo, ensuring preparedness and coordinated response.

Action Plan:

Formalization of coordination protocols through MoUs/Standard Response Frameworks and conduct of joint mock drills.

Timeline: Strengthened.





ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

Sl. No. 3.15 – Inadequate Incident Reporting & Investigation Mechanism

VPA follows established procedures for reporting and investigation of incidents, near-misses, and safety deviations.

Records are maintained and corrective actions are implemented under supervision of Safety and Environment Departments.

Action Plan:

Implementation of a structured digital incident reporting system and strengthening root cause analysis mechanisms.

Timeline: Implemented.

Sl. No. 3.16 – Lack of Periodic Review & Performance Monitoring

Periodic internal audits are conducted in line with ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001 standards.

In addition, third-party safety audits (including DGFASLI and IRQS) have been undertaken to review safety systems.

Action Plan:

Institution of a dedicated monitoring framework for AN operations with periodic review at senior management level.

Timeline: Strengthened.

Sl. No. 3.17 – Insufficient Community Awareness & Public Safety Measures

VPA coordinates with local authorities and ensures necessary precautions during handling of hazardous cargo.

Information sharing mechanisms exist with district administration and emergency services.

Action Plan:

Conduct of structured community awareness programmes, public safety communication, and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

Timeline: Implemented.





ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001  
2015 & ISO - 45001 : 2018

Sl. No. 3.18 – Absence of Comprehensive Risk Assessment Updates

A detailed risk assessment study has already been carried out through a third-party agency, forming the basis for the Disaster Management Plan.

Risk assessments are reviewed periodically and updated as required.

Action Plan:

Updation of risk assessment specifically for Ammonium Nitrate handling incorporating latest DGFASLI recommendations and operational scenarios.

Timeline: Completed.

VPA remains committed to ensuring strict adherence to all statutory safety norms and requests the Hon'ble Board to take the above submission on record and consider the request for permitting import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate.

DY CHAIRPERSON

Copy to: The Secretary, MoPSW for information.

Copy to: DPIIT, MoC, for information

Copy to: Chairman, APPCB for information.

Copy to: The District Collector, Visakhapatnam City, for information.

Copy to: The Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam City, for information.

Copy to: JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam

Copy to:- The Asstt. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Ex. DLB Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Port Area, Visakhapatnam for information



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN REGION-  
CHENNAI.**

**O.A.NO. 253 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Sri Chaitanya Sravathi  
.....Applicant

Vs

State of Andhra Pradesh & 9 Others

.....Respondents

**SECOND ADDITIONAL TYPED SET OF  
DOCUMENTS FILED BY  
9TH RESPONDENT**

-

**M.R.DHARANI CHANDER  
COUNSEL FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**