

Ixom Port Kembla Traded Acid

In addition to its manufacturing activities, Ixom Port Kembla also imports, stores and distributes bulk 98.5% sulphuric acid.

- Acid Trading
- Acid Tanker Loading

Acid Trading

Customers for this acid include local steel-making, electrical power generation, water treatment and other industrial chemical producers and repack facilities.

Acid Trading Process

1. Concentrated sulphuric acid (98.5%) is sourced from various locations around Australia and the world and is ordered in bulk for supply to Ixom Port Kembla.
2. Large, specially designed chemical tanker ships are contracted to load the nominated tonnage of acid at the designated load port for delivery to Port Kembla as well as other Ixom terminals in other locations as required
3. Due to the time required to organise a suitable vessel to arrive at the load port, load and then sail to Port Kembla, these shipments are booked months in advance of requirements
4. Once nominated Ixom Port Kembla is advised of the vessel's estimated time of arrival in port and planning for its arrival begins.
5. When the vessel arrives in port it is berthed by Port Kembla Port Corporation employees at the No. 4 Bulk Liquids Berth, now known as Jetty 206.
6. Following a prescribed set of operating procedures Ixom's trained acid handling personnel connect the ship's discharge system to the shore pipeline via specially designed chemical hoses
7. The acid is then transferred using the ship's on-board pumps to the Ixom shore tanks located on Foreshore Rd opposite No.3 Jetty.
8. Acid is then stored in these tanks ready for despatch to customers in road bulk tankers through purpose-designed tanker loading systems.

Acid Tanker Loading

In order to despatch bulk loads of sulphuric acid, whether manufactured or imported, from the Port Kembla site to customers, specialised sulphuric acid handling and loading systems are required.

Acid Tanker Loading Process

1. As mentioned in other sections of the site operations, concentrated acid is stored in dedicated and purpose designed storage tanks ready for despatch to customers.
2. Orders from customers are received and the relevant paperwork generated to allow specifically selected and fully trained and licensed chemical road tanker carriers to arrive on site to be loaded .
3. Once an order is confirmed by Ixom operations personnel the tanker driver positions the tanker beneath the road load out gantry ready for connection to the tanker loading system .
4. Following a prescribed procedure, trained Ixom personnel wearing specialist personal protective equipment connect the tanker to the Ixom loading system via dedicated and purpose designed chemical hoses.
5. A computer controlled batch loading system is then programmed to ensure the exact quantity of acid ordered and which can be legally carried by the relevant tanker is loaded into the tanker.
6. The loading process is automatically managed by the control system and is supervised by Ixom operations personnel. The system is protected by the computer control system, a separate high level emergency shut off probe and a bunded area inside which the tanker is parked whilst loading. These systems ensure the safety of the personnel and protect the environment in the unlikely event of any spillage.
7. Once loading is complete Ixom personnel disconnect the tanker from the loading system and process the despatch paperwork in the despatch computer system to ensure the driver has accurate records of the amount of product loaded and all relevant safety information required by law.
8. The tanker leaves the site and travels to the customer's site for delivery.