

Process disruption - the main steps to be taken in an emergency

Despite all precautionary measures, things can go wrong in the process. Serious problems are often due to a number of causes that are interlinked. Never just wait and hope that the fermenter will regain its balance again. If you don't deal with the cause of a problem, you will likely face unnecessarily long downtimes in the gas production.

Depending on how far the problem has progressed, it might not be sufficient to simply reduce the infeed for a period of time to solve it. To avoid unnecessary costs and interruptions in production, you must analyse the situation and identify the cause of the problem in order to draw up an emergency plan.

Emergency plan: What should I do when things are going terribly wrong? The main steps

1. Immediately reduce or completely stop the infeed.
2. Send a sample taken from the fermenter to a lab.
3. Identification of cause (problem history)
4. Eliminate the cause of the problem.
5. Develop a rescue plan, consulting an experienced specialist adviser. Such a plan might include measures such as recirculation or pumping of the fermenter sludge to the secondary fermenter.
6. If necessary, add additives. Before you do this, consult the specialist adviser.