



Hazard Alert Memo — Cold Storage Room Emergency Egress

This memorandum is intended as a notice to managers, supervisors, and Joint (JOHSC) and/ or Local (LOHSC) Occupational Health and Safety Committees to inspect cold storage rooms (e.g. walk in refrigerators, freezers, etc.) for emergency egress in order to prevent potential incidents of entrapment, and to maintain a safe work environment.

Joint and Local Occupational Health and Safety Committee Co-Chairs are to distribute this memo to their respective areas and document the discussion of it in their meeting minutes. To assist with the identification of these hazards, use a building key plan and highlight areas where exiting hazards exist and document the action required.

NOTIFICATION

In May of 2017, at UBCV, a cold storage room was identified as having a defective quick release mechanism. In the event that the release on the inside of the door or other emergency stop/release mechanism fail or is worn, a means for egress may be compromised.

CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION B52, THE MECHANICAL REFRIGERATION CODE (2005), 9.2

Any cold storage room that provides a means of entry of personnel and is maintained by a refrigeration system at temperatures detrimental to health shall be equipped with a door that can be readily opened from the inside and at least one of the following protective measures, depending on local conditions:

- a suitable alarm system that can be operated from within the refrigerated room, and
- a second door or knockout panel that can be readily opened from within the refrigerated room.

However, an alarm system alone shall not be considered an adequate form of protection unless personnel are available at all times to respond to alarms.





REQUIRED ACTION- RECOGNITION, EVALUATION, AND CONTROL

Supervisors must ensure the health and safety of their workers, so supervisors must inspect and document all cold storage rooms for emergency egress on a regular basis (i.e. monthly). Supervisors must communicate any hazards noted from these inspections to workers because workers must be aware of all known and foreseeable health and safety hazards in the area where they work.

If a piece of emergency equipment is identified as defective, worn, etc., managers and supervisor must:

1. Prevent access to the room until defect is repaired.
2. Document any hazard findings from inspections with recommended corrective actions, and place a service request in through your Building Administrator or Facility Manager.
3. Send inspection reports to the Safety Committees for review and further action.
4. Review working alone procedures for all personnel engaged in this task.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-04-general-conditions#SectionNumber:4.14>
- <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-04-general-conditions#SectionNumber:4.9>

For assistance in inspecting the equipment or investigating corrective actions, please contact Risk Management Services and we will be glad to help.

Thank you for your cooperation and effort to continually improving health and safety.

Risk Management Services

336 – 2389 Health Sciences Mall; Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z3

Contact: Tel 604 822 2029; Email riskmanagement@rms.ubc.ca