



MANUFACTURING

Risk management tips brought to you by the insurance specialists at: Proudfit Insurance

DID YOU KNOW?

After a June fire and explosion at a poultry processing plant in China that killed over 100 people, OSHA inspectors are expected to focus their inspections on egress issues in the workplace.

Review your employees' means of ingress and egress from various work areas as soon as possible.

- Are there at least two exit routes accessible during an emergency?
- Do exits lead directly outside to a street, refuge area or access to the outside?
- Are exit doors unlocked from the inside?
- Do you have a written emergency action plan?

Be prepared for an emergency before it happens. To learn more, check out OSHA's Evacuation Plans and Procedures eTool at www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/eap.html.

Implement a Hearing Conservation Program to Reduce Employee Hearing Loss

Every year, approximately 30 million people in the United States are occupationally exposed to hazardous noise. Noise-related hearing loss has been listed as one of the most prevalent occupational health concerns in the United States for more than 25 years. Every year, thousands of workers suffer from preventable hearing loss due to high workplace noise levels.

Loud noise can also create physical and psychological stress, reduce productivity, interfere with communication and concentration and contribute to workplace accidents and injuries by making it difficult to hear warning signals. Employers must implement an effective hearing conservation program whenever worker noise exposure is equal to or greater than 85 dB for an eight-hour exposure or in the construction industry when exposures exceed 90 dB for an eight-hour exposure. This program should strive to prevent initial occupational hearing loss, preserve and protect remaining hearing and equip workers

with the knowledge and hearing protection devices necessary to protect them. An effective program includes:

- Noise sampling to identify hazard areas
- Providing the proper PPE
- Conducting regular hearing tests
- Annual hearing conservation training

Each of these elements is critical to ensure that workers are being protected where noise levels are unable to be reduced below the OSHA required levels. Contact Proudfit Insurance today to find out more.



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RISK SOLUTIONS

Recognize Workplace Exposure to Isocyanates

OSHA recently announced a new National Emphasis Program to protect workers from the serious health effects from exposure to isocyanates. OSHA will focus on workplaces in general, construction and maritime industries that use isocyanate compounds in an effort to reduce occupational illnesses and deaths.

Isocyanates are chemicals that can cause occupational asthma, cancer and irritation of the skin, eyes, nose and throat. Isocyanates are used in materials including paints, varnishes, auto body repair and building insulation. Jobs that involve exposure to isocyanates include spray-on polyurethane manufacturing, products such as mattresses and car seats and protective coatings for truck beds, boats and decks.

OSHA's isocyanates page provides additional information on recognizing potential hazards, as well as OSHA standards that address isocyanates in the general, construction and maritime industries. Check out www.osha.gov/SLTC/isocyanates/index.html for more information.