

HAZARDS

IN THE RETAIL WORKPLACE



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Local 881 UFCW and the UFCW International Occupational Safety and Health office created this booklet to help make the legal language of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) easier to understand.

We hope the combination of the OSHA standards with photos of hazards will help you spot and eliminate dangerous situations.

We invite you to read on and be alert for these hazards in your own workplace. Contact your Union Representative with questions or concerns.

Thank you to UFCW Local 400 for permission to use the photos in this booklet.

BLOCKED ELECTRICAL PANELS

1910.303(g)(1)

Space about electric equipment.

Sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment.



BLOCKED EXIT ROUTE

1910.37(a)(3)

Exit routes must be free and unobstructed. No materials or equipment may be placed, either permanently or temporarily, within the exit route.



BLOCKED FIRE ALARM AND EYEWASH

1910.165(e)

Manual operation.

The employer shall assure that manually operated actuation devices for use in conjunction with employee alarms are unobstructed, conspicuous and readily accessible.

1910.151(c)

Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.



BROKEN PALLET

5 (a) Each employer --

(1) shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards...

OSHA's Guidelines for Retail Grocery Stores recommends that employers "report improperly stacked pallets to the supplier to reduce future problems."

OSHA's Small Business Handbook Checklist asks, "Are pallets usually inspected before being loaded or moved?"



FIRE HAZARD

1910.176(b)

Secure storage. Storage of material shall not create a hazard. Bags, containers, bundles, etc., stored in tiers shall be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse.

1910.176(c)

Housekeeping. Storage areas shall be kept free from accumulation of materials that constitute hazards from tripping, fire, explosion, or pest harborage. Vegetation control will be exercised when necessary.



DOOR OF CONFUSION

1910.36(d)(1)

Employees must be able to open an exit route door from the inside at all times without keys, tools, or special knowledge. A device such as a panic bar that locks only from the outside is permitted on exit discharge doors.

1910.37(b)(3)

Each exit route door must be free of decorations or signs that obscure the visibility of the exit route door.

1910.36(d)(2)

Exit route doors must be free of any device or alarm that could restrict emergency use of the exit route if the device or alarm fails.

1910.37(b)(5)

Each doorway or passage along an exit access that could be mistaken for an exit must be marked “Not an Exit” or similar designation, or be identified by a sign indicating its actual use (e.g., closet).



1910.37(b)(7)

Each exit sign must have the word “Exit” in plainly legible letters not less than six inches (15.2 cm) high, with the principal strokes of the letters in the word “Exit” not less than three-fourths of an inch (1.9 cm) wide.

1910.165(e)

Manual operation.

The employer shall assure that manually operated actuation devices for use in conjunction with employee alarms are unobstructed, conspicuous and readily accessible.

FAULTY OUTLET

1910.303(b)(3)

Insulation integrity.

Completed wiring installations shall be free from short circuits and from grounds other than those required or permitted by this subpart.



FAULTY PPE

1910.138(a)

General requirements.

Employers shall select and require employees to use appropriate hand protection when employees' hands are exposed to hazards such as those from skin absorption of harmful substances; severe cuts or lacerations; severe abrasions; punctures; chemical burns; thermal burns; and harmful temperature extremes.



LOCKED EXIT

1910.36(d)(1)

An exit door must be unlocked.

Employees must be able to open an exit route door from the inside at all times without keys, tools, or special knowledge. A device such as a panic bar that locks only from the outside is permitted on exit discharge doors.



LOOSE HAND RAIL

1910.23(e)(3)(iv)

The anchoring of posts and framing of members for railings of all types shall be of such construction that the completed structure shall be capable of withstanding a load of at least 200 pounds applied in any direction at any point on the top rail.



KNIFE STORAGE

General Duty Clause

5 (a) Each employer --

(1) shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards ...

The OSHA Small Business Handbook (OSHA 2209-02R 2005) says that self-inspections should include proper tool storage.



FIRE EXTINGUISHER STORAGE

1910.157(c)(1)

The employer shall provide portable fire extinguishers and shall mount, locate and identify them so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury.

1910.157(c)(4)

The employer shall assure that portable fire extinguishers are maintained in a fully charged and operable condition and kept in their designated places at all times except during use.



HELIUM GAS STORAGE

1910.101(b)

“Compressed gases.” The in-plant handling, storage, and utilization of all compressed gases in cylinders, portable tanks, rail tankcars, or motor vehicle cargo tanks shall be in accordance with Compressed Gas Association Pamphlet P-1-1965

From the CGA Pamphlet

2. Cylinder Storage

Gas cylinders must be secured at all times to prevent tipping.

Use appropriate material, such as chain, plastic coated wire cable, commercial straps, etc., to secure cylinders.

Gas cylinders can not be stored in public hallways or other unprotected areas.



BLOCKED PATHWAY

1910.176(a)

Use of mechanical equipment. Where mechanical handling equipment is used, sufficient safe clearances shall be allowed for aisles, at loading docks, through doorways and wherever turns or passage must be made. Aisles and passageways shall be kept clear and in good repair, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard. Permanent aisles and passageways shall be appropriately marked.

The recommended width of aisles is at least 3 feet wider than the largest equipment to be utilized, or a minimum of 4 feet. – OSHA Letter of Interpretation May 15, 1972



HUMAN WASTE

1910.141(a)(3)(i)

All places of employment shall be kept clean to the extent that the nature of the work allows.



UNSTABLE LOAD

1910.176(b)

Secure storage. Storage of material shall not create a hazard. Bags, containers, bundles, etc., stored in tiers shall be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse.



UNSAFE STORAGE OVER WORK AREA

1910.176(b)

Secure storage. Storage of material shall not create a hazard. Bags, containers, bundles, etc., stored in tiers shall be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse



TRIP HAZARDS

1910.22(a)(1)

All places of employment, passageways, storerooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

1910.22(a)(2)

The floor of every workroom shall be maintained in a clean and, so far as possible, a dry condition

OSHA's Guidelines for Retail Grocery Stores recommends that you inspect to see if there is "debris (e.g., broken pallets) or uneven surfaces (e.g., cracks in the floor) or dock plates that could catch the wheels while pushing?"



WHAT IS THE GENERAL DUTY CLAUSE?

OSHA does not have a standard for every hazard.

When there is no specific standard OSHA uses the General Duty Clause, which says: Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards...

If we want to know if a particular hazard is “recognized,” we look for OSHA guidelines or other health and safety materials that mention the hazard.

We can use the General Duty Clause when we can show that:

- There is a real risk of injury or death, and,
- There are guidelines, rules, or other information that shows that this is a known hazard.

WHY IS THE GENERAL DUTY CLAUSE SO IMPORTANT?

The right to a safe workplace can cover a lot of different hazards.

That’s the beauty of the general duty clause-it enables us as working people to eliminate the hazards in our workplace even if there is no specific regulation in regards to the specific hazard. The general duty clause allows us to continually re-evaluate our workplaces and insure they are safe.

