

Operations Division Occupational Health and Safety

Field Visit Report

Page 1 of 4

OHS Case ID: 02883PKTV498  
Field Visit no: 02883PKTV499

Visit Date: 2020-JUN-03

Field Visit Type: INITIAL

Workplace Identification: HAMILTON HEALTH SCIENCES - JURAVINSKI HOSPITAL AND CANCER CENTRE  
711 CONCESSION STREET, HAMILTON, ON, CANADA L8V 1C3

Notice ID:

Telephone: (905) 389-4411

JHSC Status: Active

Work Force #: 2500

Completed %:

Persons Contacted: CATHY CRAIG, SAFETY SPECIALIST; JEUDIE MULLIGAN, JHSC WORKER MEMBER (ONA)  
Visit Purpose: INVESTIGATE HAND SANITIZER USED AT THE WORKPLACE CONTAINING TECHNICAL GRADE ETHANOL  
Visit Location: VIA TELEPHONE  
Visit Summary: INVESTIGATE A COMPLAINT REGARDING HAND SANITIZER USED AT THE WORKPLACE CONTAINING TECHNICAL GRADE ETHANOL

Detailed Narrative:

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT:

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) received a complaint alleging the following concerns:

- 1 - some hand sanitizer used at the workplace contains technical grade ethanol instead of food grade ethanol, and there are concerns regarding potential health effects to workers associated with these products
- 2 - a worker reported having an adverse skin reaction believed to be related to the use of a hand sanitizer containing technical grade ethanol

Concerns regarding the use of technical grade ethanol in some hand sanitizer used at the workplace were reported to the Ministry of Labour and investigated in FV Report No. 02883PKKS471 dated 25 May 2020 - at the time of that investigation, the workplace parties believed that all hand sanitizer containing technical grade ethanol had been removed from use at the workplace.

INSPECTOR'S ACTIONS/FINDINGS:

- the details of the complaint were discussed with the workplace parties
- the Inspector confirmed that the workplace has a written procedure regarding the use of new products at the workplace entitled 'New Product Request and Products for Trial or Evaluation', dated 2016-10-12 - the employer reported that this procedure is maintained by the Purchasing Department and not the Safety Department. The Inspector discussed section 8 and 9 of the Health Care and Residential Facilities Regulation 67/1993 with the workplace parties and how the use of new products could have implications with respect to compliance with these sections of the legislation - ORDER ISSUED to the employer to review the procedure related to new products and/or trial products in light of current knowledge and practice. The workplace parties needs to ensure that the new product approval process considers firm constraints which may exist in

Recipient: Cathy Craig, Safety Specialist  
Inspector Data: SHELLY SPEIR, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR, PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER, 119 King St W, 14th Fl., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7, Tel: (905) 379-4557, Fax: (905) 577-1324  
Worker Representative: Jeudie Mulligan, ONA worker member.

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 46 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-2335 (toll free), mail or by website at http://www.olrb.gov.on.ca/english/homepage.htm for more information.

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light of the current pandemic.

- 1 - the workplace parties reported that they were made aware of two alcohol based hand sanitizers; Microsan Encore and Triton, which may contain technical based ethanol instead of food grade ethanol
- the employer reported that at the time of purchase, they were not made aware of the substitution of technical grade ethanol and found out when concerns regarding this issue was brought up by workers aware of concerns at other workplaces
- the employer reported that they contacted the supplier of the Microsan Encore and requested lot numbers for the containers of hand sanitizer which contained technical based ethanol - the employer confirmed that a review of lot numbers received confirmed that they had not received Microsan Encore containing technical grade ethanol at the workplace
- the employer reported that they had received Triton and that at the time of purchase were not aware that it contained technical grade ethanol - the employer reported that once they were made aware that it was in the workplace, it had already been dispensed into several wall mounted units throughout the workplace
- the workplace parties confirmed that additional warnings from the supplier are included with this product due to the technical grade ethanol being used in its formulation which includes; adults only, do not use on broken or damaged skin, do not use if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, and do not inhale.
- it was confirmed that prior to April 27, 2020, technical grade ethanol was not used in Triton and the additional warnings do not apply
- the workplace parties reported that the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for Triton was considered for use at the workplace in March of 2020 and that a copy of the SDS was provided to the JHSC at that time, however no additional follow up or discussion took place regarding this product until it was reported to be in the workplace with the additional warnings
- the workplace parties reported that once they were aware of the additional warnings associated with the re-formulated product, if it was found in the workplace it was removed from use and replaced with a food grade ethanol based hand sanitizer
- the workplace parties reported that after the field visit was conducted on the 25 May 2020 which included discussion regarding this topic, several wall mounted containers of Triton hand sanitizer were reported to be found in various locations of the workplace by the JHSC while conducting their monthly workplace inspection - the workplace parties reported that when they were found, they were removed from use and replaced with hand sanitizer containing food grade ethanol
- the employer reported that due to shortage issues with bladders for wall mounted hand sanitizer dispensers, the bladders found by the JHSC contained both labels for Triton as well as Happy Hands, which is a hand sanitizer containing food grade ethanol - the employer reported that the Triton label was not removed which

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name _____	<b>SHELLY SPEIR</b> OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER 119 King St W, 14th Fl., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7 MOLHSHAMILTONEAST@ontario.ca Tel: (905) 379-4557 Fax: (905) 577-1324	Name _____
Title _____		Title _____
Signature 	Signature 	Signature 

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resulted in the confusion as to whether or not it was present in the workplace  
- at the time of this field visit, the employer confirmed that Triton had been removed from use at the workplace, as well as other workplaces under the control of Hamilton Health Sciences

- 2- the workplace parties confirmed that a Safety Occurrence Report (SOR) had been completed with respect to the skin reaction of the worker and that the incident was being investigated
- the employer confirmed that Employee Health performs follow up discussions with workers when a SOR of this nature is submitted
- the employer confirmed that the worker is encouraged to speak to their family Physician regarding the skin reaction
- the Inspector included a link to the WSIB Worker Exposure Incident Form which can be completed voluntarily by the worker and submitted to WSIB regarding a potential exposure

1 ORDER ISSUED. Investigation on-going.

RESOURCES:

Link to the WSIB Worker Exposure Incident Form:

[www.wsib.ca/en/document/3958a](http://www.wsib.ca/en/document/3958a)

A COPY OF THIS REPORT SHALL BE POSTED IN THE WORKPLACE WHERE IT WILL COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORKERS.

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Title _____	119 King St W, 14th Fl., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7 MOLHSHAMILTONEAST@ontario.ca Tel: (905) 379-4557 Fax: (905) 577-1324	Title _____
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Order(s) / Requirement(s) Issued To:

To: **HAMILTON HEALTH SCIENCES CORPORATION**

Org/Ind Role  
**Primary Employer**

Mailing Address:

**100 KING ST W, SUITE 2300, HAMILTON, ON, CA L8P 1A2**

Order(s) / Requirement(s) Description:

You are required to comply with the order(s) / requirement(s) by the dates listed below.

No	Type Code	Act/Reg	Year	Sec.	Sub Sec.	Clause	Text of Order/Requirement	Comply by Date
1	Time 02883PKVP500	OHSA 67	1990 1993		9	2	Pursuant to section 9(2) of the Health Care and Residential Facilities Regulation 67/1993, the employer shall ensure that at least once a year the measures and procedures for the health and safety of workers shall be reviewed and revised in the light of current knowledge and practice. At the time of investigation, the procedure entitled 'New Product Request and Products for Trial or Evaluation' pertaining to new or trial product approval at the workplace had not been reviewed since 2016 and did not consider the current pandemic situation. The employer shall comply with this order on or before 17 June 2020 by reviewing the procedure regarding new or trial product approval for the workplace.	2020-JUN-17

Recipient

Inspector Data

Worker Representative

**SHELLY SPEIR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR  
PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

119 King St W, 14th Fl., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7

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