



COMMON FINDS: CHEMICAL STORAGE

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities and school districts alike use chemicals for a wide range of applications. Whether you are cleaning your buildings, repairing equipment, or even creating engaging science lessons, these chemicals must be stored following both the OSHA standard (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(e)(2)(ii)(b)) and the requirements found within the chemical's Safety Data Sheet (SDS). This standard informs public entities on the amount of flammable liquids permitted in various areas of a workplace. Used in conjunction with the Safety Data Sheet, the public entity has the capability to increase the overall safety of those using such chemicals. CIRMA Risk Management commonly finds that these chemicals are not appropriately stored during our Facilities Hazard Assessment.

OBSERVATIONS:

The chemicals were stored improperly due to the following:

- 1) chemicals being placed on top of the flammable cabinet,
- 2) the public entity not knowing how many gallons of flammable liquids were in the room/fire area, and
- 3) inappropriate items being stored within the storage cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consider storing chemicals per Section 7 of their Safety Data Sheet and **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(e)(2)(ii)(b)**. If the public entity uses flammable cabinets, it should ensure that the chemicals inside do not exceed the maximum capacity detailed in **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(d)(3)(i)**. Public entities can use Section 2 of the Safety Data Sheet to determine which Category their flammable liquids fall under.

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(e)(2)(ii)(b)

The quantity of liquid that may be located outside of an inside storage room or storage cabinet in a building or any one fire area of a building shall not exceed:

- 25 gallons of Category 1 flammable liquids in containers,
- 120 gallons of Category 2, 3, or 4 flammable liquids in containers, and
- 660 gallons of Category 2, 3, or 4 flammable liquids in a single portable tank.

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(d)(3)(i)

Maximum capacity of flammable liquids to be stored in a storage cabinet shall not exceed:

- more than 60 gallons of Category 1, 2, or 3 flammable liquids, and
- more than 120 gallons of Category 4 flammable liquids.

visit **CIRMA.org** to learn more



This material is intended for informational purposes only and is intended exclusively for CIRMA Members. This material does not amend, extend, or otherwise affect the provisions or coverages of any insurance policy issued by Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), nor is it a representation that coverage does or does not exist.

©2025 Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency. All rights reserved.