



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
Division of Occupational Safety and Health

312 SE Stonemill Dr. Suite 120, Vancouver, WA 98684-6982

May 23, 2018

Brian Mack, Fire Sciences Instructor
LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE
1600 Maple St.
PO Box 3010
Longview, WA 98632

RE: Consultation Visit #507000207

Consultant on Visit: Christopher Cooke

Company Representatives: Jim Dillinger, Instructor
Brian Mack, Fire Sciences Instructor
Janel Skreen, Director of EH&S

Dear Mr. Mack,

I appreciated having this opportunity to help you evaluate the safety and health of your workplace. We at the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) are committed to encouraging voluntary compliance with Washington safety laws by offering technical advice and consultation with employers and their employees.

Following is a copy of my consultation report which details my findings and recommendations resulting from a Consultation Visit that provided a safety and /or health hazard assessment of working conditions, equipment, and processes at the work site. The consultation began on 5/11/2018 at 1600 Maple St., Longview, WA 98632.

This was a limited consultation, requested by the college safety and diesel departments. The safety and health consultation consisted of a bio-diesel process which had been previously shut down by the local Fire Marshall.

Evaluation of your company's safety and health program

Make sure that employees are following your rules in regards to safety. Make sure that employees understand that safety is a priority while working at Lower Columbia College.

Other Findings and Recommendations

Thank you for having Karen and I out to your facility to conduct a health and safety consultation. You are doing some fascinating work with bio-diesel, and we appreciate the opportunity to talk with you concerning some of the best practices associated with producing your own bio-diesel. Some of the best

practices/recommendations that we recommend are as follows:

1. Working with Local Fire Authorities - We are glad to see that the local fire district has finally reached out and is offering you some guidance on how to make your space safe, and up to code, so that you may resume your bio-diesel creation process. This would involve designing your space so that is free of potential hazards to your employees and students. The fire department should be able to guide you on the proper permitting processes that need to be followed, and any potential International Fire Codes which will apply to your space. Hopefully between the fire department, and some of the documents we provided you during this consultation, you will be up and running again sooner rather than later.
2. Industrial Grade Equipment - The NWR Liberty Bio-diesel Processor which you are currently using is designed for personal and recreational use, and after reviewing the technical/owners manual there is no way for us to determine if the components are intrinsically sound. While this apparatus is probably fine for use within one's own home, but once you bring employees and students into the light for possible exposure their are specific safety rules and regulations that need to be followed. We recommend finding a new processor that has verification of intrinsically built components, this will hopefully move the permitting process along a little more quickly with the fire department. Ensuring intrinsically safe components are part of your equipment will reduce the risk and exposure to your faculty and students.
3. Kelso Safety & Health Consultation Contacts - As much as we love coming up to Longview to visit your campus, we do have consultants available in the Kelso field office. Accessing our consultants in Kelso might help in future instances where a more immediate response is needed, and having these local contacts I believe will prove useful to the Department assisting you in the future. Our contacts in Kelso are as follows:

Delwin Weeks, Safety Consultant
office: (360) 575-6944, Delwin.Weeks@lni.wa.gov

Lindsey Unruh, Industrial Hygiene Consultant
office: (360) 575-6934, Lindsey.Unruh@lni.wa.gov

Notice of Obligation

You are required to share this letter and enclosed report with your employees and/or their collective bargaining representatives as soon as possible, but no more than 30 days from receiving it (RCW 49.17.250(3)).

Your consultation report is confidential. Although you must share the report with your employees and/or their collective bargaining representatives, we do not make this document public or share it with DOSH compliance inspectors (except under very limited circumstances, such as when the department is required under subpoena, or if you refuse to correct a serious hazard).

If, in the future, your workplace is inspected by DOSH compliance, you will not be required to tell the inspector about this consultation or share the report. However, if, during the consultation, we perform any tests for workplace exposures (such as noise levels or air quality) DOSH standards require you to show these monitoring results to the inspector, if requested.

If I give you specific guidance that you follow, you would not be cited if a DOSH inspector later finds my guidance did not address (or adequately address) a hazard. You would still have to fix the hazard by

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the correction date assigned by the inspector. However, it is possible for an inspector to cite you for a hazard not identified during my consultation. This could be because work conditions changed, we had a misunderstanding, or I may have overlooked the hazard. In such cases the inspector would consider any good faith effort by you in determining the penalty.

Your request for this consultation demonstrates that you are committed to the safety and health of your employees. Make sure you routinely conduct self-inspections of your workplace for hazards. The findings shown in this report were hazards identified on the day of the consult and are not necessarily all of the hazards that may be present now or in the future at your work site. Situations and conditions can be different from day to day.

If you have any questions about this report, or need further assistance, please contact me. For on-line access to our safety and health rules, go to www.lni.wa.gov/safety.

Sincerely,

Christopher Cooke

Christopher Cooke

Safety Consultant

Phone: (360) 896-2390

Fax: (360) 896-2345

Christopher.Cooke@lni.wa.gov

Karen Anderson, Industrial Hygiene Consultant

Attachments:

5/23/2018 3:51 PM



Hazards Identified

In this section, I have listed the hazards identified during my work site visit and my recommendation for correcting the problem. For your convenience, the language of each related Washington Administrative Code (WAC) is included at the end of this report. You must post this document a minimum of 3 days, keeping it posted until all hazards identified are corrected.

- **Serious hazards:** Washington law defines a hazard as serious when there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result to your employees.
- **General hazards:** A hazard is general when we determine that there is a probability that an employee could be injured or become ill as a result, but there is no reasonable probability that it could cause death or serious physical harm.

If serious hazards have been identified, you will find attached forms entitled "Certification of Hazards Corrected". Complete the form as you make your corrections, and submit it back to me by the correction due date(s).

No Serious Hazards were found.

General Hazards Identified

(See Applicable Washington Administrative Code Section for WAC Language)

You must correct all general hazards.

1. WAC 296-24-95707(7)(b)(iii)

Hazard Description:

One flexible cord, the flexible cord for the Fill-Rite Heavy Duty Pump, had damaged strain relief.

Repeated and continuous use of electrical cords that do not have a proper strain relief could result in electrical shorts or electric shock to employees.

Recommended action:

Rewire the plug to the cord or dispose of the flexible cord.

2. WAC 296-800-27020

Hazard Description:



The storage area above the club storage space had various materials being stored above the structure; there was no posted load limit sign for this area as required by this standard.

Possible overloading and collapse of the storage area could result in injury to employees below.

Recommended action:

Post load limit signs for storage areas and do not exceed this limit. You may also elect to remove the items and not store anything in the space, if you decide to not store items in this area post a sign which reads "Not a Storage Space" so employees are not inclined to store items in the space.

Applicable Washington Administrative Codes

1. WAC 296-24-95707(7)(b)(iii)

WAC 296-24-95707 Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use.

(7) Flexible cords and cables.

(b) Identification, splices, and terminations.

(iii) Flexible cords and cables shall be connected to devices and fittings so that strain relief is provided that will prevent pull from being directly transmitted to joints or terminal screws.

2. WAC 296-800-27020

WAC 296-800-27020 Post approved load limits (weight limits) for floors.

You must:

Post approved load limits (weight limits) for floors used for mercantile, business, industrial or storage purposes in an obvious place.

The owner, or owner's agent, of a building (or other part of a workplace) must post the load approved by the building official by:

Supplying and affixing a durable metal sign that is marked with the approved load.

Placing the metal sign in an obvious spot in the space to which it applies.

Replacing the metal sign if it is lost, defaced, damaged, or removed.

Note: This rule applies to the floor that supports shelving, but not to the shelves themselves.