



FYI



| PLEASE POST |

Date: July 29, 2021
To: All BCGEU Component 5 Members
Re: LDB July Safety Tip – Working in the Cold Zone

ColdZone: the effects of the cold, proper PPE, ample space for stocking and room for a step ladder to reach higher rollers/shelves, mould spotting and remediation.

As the weather remains hot, many customers will be seeking chilled beverages from the Cold Zone. Working in temperatures between 0 – 4°C presents an additional workplace hazard. Below we will outline tips for maintaining your health and safety while working in the Cold Zone.

Before entering the Cold Zone:

- Inform your supervisor or co-worker so they know to find you in the event of emergency.
- Don all PPE: Properly fitted insulated gloves, light jacket, toque (longer durations).
- Inspect all equipment: step stools, dollies.

While in the Cold Zone:

- Assure stacks are not higher than shoulder height.
- Use a step stool to avoid lifting loads above shoulder height.
- Assure stacks are balanced so they don't pose a tipping hazard.
- Organize the cooler to ensure there's access to all products without overreaching.
- Ensure there is ample space to move safely between stacks and/or aisles.
- Ensure there's room between stock and shelving so you're not leaning backwards or reaching to the sides to get product on the shelves/racking.
- Keep pathways clear of stacks and cardboard debris.

Leaving the Cold Zone:

- Give a warning knock to avoid bumping into a co-worker on the other side of the door.



Other considerations:

- Duties should be rotated so that no one person has to spend prolonged time in the Cold Zone.
- Take microbreaks to warm yourself up and stretch.

Mould Exposure:

Anywhere moisture can collect presents the risk of mould growth. Moulds can pose a health risk, especially where there is an underlying immuno-condition. In order to combat mould in the Cold Zone, we recommend the following:

- Clean/wipe up any pooled moisture or condensation that has built up.
- If the moisture is coming from a leak, report the hazard to a supervisor to get fixed.
- If you believe you have been exposed to mould at work, [report it to the WorkSafeBC Exposure registry](#).

For the full risk assessment, please see the attached documents: click [here](#) and [here](#).

You have the right to refuse unsafe work. The process for refusal can be found here: <https://ohs.bcgeu.ca/your-rights>.

If you have question or concerns, please reach out to your steward or local chair. We can be reached at ohs@bcgeu.ca or you can find us online at <http://ohs.bcgeu.ca>.

In solidarity

Component 5 OHS

RAB/CN/MoveUP
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