

Project WorkSAFE Brewery Safety FactSheet

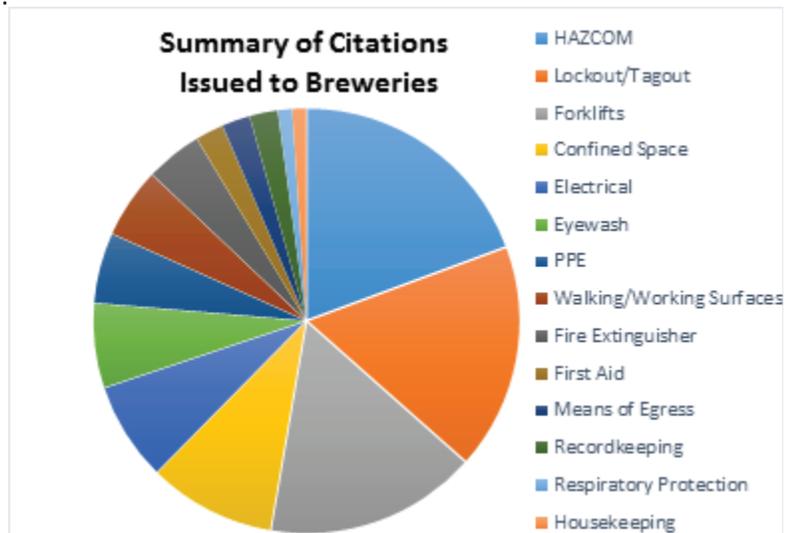
Breweries are an integral industry of Vermont. Throughout the production process in breweries there are hazards which must be accounted for to promote worker safety and comply with workplace health and safety regulations enforced by the Vermont Occupational Health and Safety Administration (VOSHA). The following document reviews some of the common hazards and applicable VOSHA regulations found in breweries.

Summary of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety and health citations

The following data summarizes citations issued to employers categorized in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 312120; Breweries. Data listed consists of 100 citations issued during 22 workplace health and safety inspections primarily occurring between 2017 and 2015 across the U.S.

Counts of Citations Issued to Breweries

Topic	Counts
HAZCOM	18
Lockout/Tagout	16
Forklifts	15
Confined Space	9
Electrical	7
Eyewash	6
PPE	5
Walking/Working Surfaces	5
Fire Extinguisher	4
First Aid	2
Means of Egress	2
Recordkeeping	2
Respiratory Protection	1
Housekeeping	1



Sample of VOSHA-required Health and Safety Programs.

- **Hazard Communication (HAZCOM)** - All employers with hazardous chemicals/products present at their workplaces must have labels, safety data sheets (SDS), and a written program. Provide training for their employees who handle or are exposed to such chemicals/products. This is specific to places of employment where hazardous chemicals/products are maintained and used at quantities greater than normal household use.
- **Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)** - During the servicing, cleaning, and maintenance of machines and equipment, the unexpected startup or release of stored energy can result in serious injury or death. Employers who service equipment beyond cord-and-plug powered devices are required to develop energy control procedures, provide locks/tags to isolate hazardous energy, train affected employees, and evaluate the energy control procedures annually.
- **Forklift Safety Program** – If forklifts are in used at a workplace, the employer must ensure that all operators have been trained to operate the particular style of forklift and retrained every 3 years thereafter. All forklifts are also required to be inspected before each shift. There are many performance requirements for forklift operators to comply with during forklift operation.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Assessment** – Employers are required to determine and document whether certain processes require the use of PPE to protect employees from workplace hazards. PPE could include safety glasses, face shields, gloves, or specialty footwear. If you handle hazardous chemicals/products, the products' SDS will list the necessary PPE.

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● **Confined Spaces Program** – A Confined space is a space large enough for workers to enter, has limited, or restricted means of egress, and is not designed for continuous occupancy. In breweries, this may include tanks, vats, or vessels. Permit-required confined spaces are confined spaces with additional hazards such as hazardous machinery or hazardous atmospheres. Before any employee enters a permit-required confined space, such as a lauter tun, the employer must develop a program which outlines an employer’s plan for controlling and protecting employees from permit space hazards and regulating employee entry.

Other Workplace Health and Safety Considerations for your Brewery

Electrical Hazards– All portable cord and plug connected equipment and flexible cord sets (extension cords) are required to be visually inspected before use for external defects. This could include missing grounding prongs, damaged cord insulation or loose parts. Extension cords are temporary and shall not be used for more than 90 days. All electrical enclosures (outlet boxes, circuit breakers, junction boxes, etc.) are required to be completely enclosed and the width of working space in front of the electric equipment shall be the width of the equipment or 30 inches.

Need for Eyewashes – Where corrosive materials are present, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body must be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use. Per American National Standards Institute (ANSI), eyewashes are to be no more than 10 seconds from where injurious materials are handled.

Emergency Considerations – Employers who provide fire extinguishers must establish an educational program to familiarize employees with the general principles of fire extinguisher use. Employers who expect employees to use portable fire extinguishers must provide hands-on training in fire extinguisher use. Both educational program and hands-on trainings are required upon initial hire and annually thereafter. Fire extinguishers are required to be mounted, identified, readily accessible and distributed as so that no employee need travel more than 75 feet to access the fire extinguisher.

Walking/Working Surface Hazards - Walking-working surfaces in all places of must be kept in a clean, orderly, and sanitary condition. Where wet processes are occurring, drainage must be maintained and, to the extent feasible, dry standing places, such as false floors, platforms, and mats must be provided. There are also many safety considerations for means of egress, ladder use and stairways.

Conducting a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) at your Brewery

Employers should conduct a job hazard analysis to determine whether hazards exist within certain processes or tasks. Such hazards could include moving components of machinery or tools which are not guarded, hazardous chemicals or damaged electrically powered equipment.

If you have any further questions regarding workplace safety and health please contact Project WorkSAFE at 1-888-SAFE-YES (1-888-723-3937). We provide free and confidential workplace safety and health consultations for Vermont employers. We are also available to answer any questions you may have involving occupational safety and health.



A cooperative program between:



Department of Labor
State of Vermont

and

