

Forkway Risk Assessment – RA 015

Task/ Activity	This assessment covers Forkway Engineers working in a cold store.			Persons Exposed		
Location	Customer cold store sites throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland			Forkway Employees	Customer Employees	Members of Public
Name of Assessor(s)	Westley Hawkins (Regional SHEQ Advisor)	Date of Assessment	12/04/2024 (V2)	1 - 2	May be in area	May be in area
		Date of Next Review	12/04/2025			

Stop and Think

Before undertaking any task/ activity it is essential that you have read and understood all of the control measures in this document and are satisfied that the control measures herein are suitable and sufficient. If you find the control measures are not suitable and sufficient, contact your line manager before proceeding.

The personal protective equipment required at all times throughout the task is Safety Boots, Hard Hat, High Visibility Clothing, Overalls, Nitrile Gloves and Safety Glasses. Where additional PPE is required it will be identified at the relevant points in this risk assessment, supporting risk assessments, supporting safe working methods and relevant COSHH assessments.

Hazard	Initial			Control Measures	Residual		
	Likelihood	Severity	Rating		Likelihood	Severity	Rating
1. Accidental cold store lock in;	3	5	15	If due to the design of the cold store, there is a risk of accidental lock in. Engineers must not enter the cold store without the supervision of another person outside of the cold store. Engineers must also familiarise themselves with cold store emergency exit location, route of escape and escape procedure. Check mobile phone has signal once inside, before proceeding with task. If mobile phone is non-operational, then alternative means communication should be put in place.	2	5	10
2. Accidental release of refrigerants;	3	5	15	Engineer to familiarise themselves with the customer emergency procedure for accidental release of refrigerants and location of nearby water shower for those exposed to ammonia spray. Site contact and line manager to be informed immediately of any accidental release or any concerns noticed regarding integrity of cold store.	1	5	5
3. Slip on ice or frost;	3	4	12	Avoid working in the cold store where possible, if work in a cold store cannot be avoided, then the correct PPE must be worn at all times including appropriate footwear, with sufficient grip. Designated walkways and routes should be followed inside cold store. Ensure there is no slip or trip hazards in the work area or immediate vicinity before starting work. If slip or trip hazards are identified, these should be highlighted to the customer before starting.	2	4	8

MULTIPLY THE LIKLIHOOD AND SEVERITY TO GET THE RISK RATING

Likelihood - (5=Very Likely, 4= Likely, 3= Possible, 2= Unlikely, 1= Highly Unlikely)

Severity - (5=Very Severe, 4= Severe, 3= Moderate, 2= Slight, 1=Negligible)

0- 5 = Low Risk - No Action Required.

6-15 = Medium Risk - Ensure adequate controls are in use.

16-25 = High Risk - Stop operation and implement adequate control measures

Hazard	Initial			Control Measures	Residual		
	L	S	R		L	S	R
4. Effects of working in extreme cold (e.g. frostbite, hypothermia, cold stress etc.);	3	3	9	Whenever practical engineer to remove equipment from cold store and allow to 'de-frost' before starting work. When work in cold store cannot be avoided correct additional PPE must be worn. Consult SSOW 015 for details on PPE requirements. Engineers should not touch cold metal or plastic objects and surfaces with bare hands or skin. Take regular warm up breaks in a warm dry area and drink hot drinks. Consult SSOW 015 for frequency of breaks and recovery times. No work activity should be carried out in temperatures of -40 degrees or below.	2	3	6
5. Existing medical conditions;	3	3	9	Engineers with any existing medical conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, Raynaud's, HAVS, arthritis etc. that may become worsened or aggravated by cold store environment, must highlight this to their line manager prior to entering the cold store. Engineers should be fit for work and be free from any medical condition likely to be adversely affected by the low temperature. Engineers wearing glasses should be advised to take particular care on leaving the cold environment as vision may be impaired by fogging up of lenses.	2	3	6
6. Working at height in a cold store;	3	5	15	Avoid work at height in cold stores wherever possible. Where work at height cannot be avoided special consideration will have to be given as to the most appropriate method of working at height. Consideration must be given to the possibility of a slippery surface (e.g., if using ladders) or the effects of the cold temperature on powered access equipment (e.g., MEWPS possible reduced capabilities). Ensure to follow manufacturers guidance on equipment's limitations and Forkway' safe systems of work.	2	5	10
7. Loss of control of equipment in a cold store (controls/ components jamming or freezing);	3	5	15	Extreme care and caution must be taken when operating equipment in a cold store. Do not operate any plant equipment unless you are fully trained to do so and fully familiar with the controls. Select the lowest gear/ speed setting and operate with caution. Check functionality of controls before operating.	2	5	10
8. Jacking and blocking in a cold store;	3	5	15	Avoid jacking and blocking in a cold store where possible. Where jacking and blocking cannot be avoided special consideration will have to be given as to the most appropriate method. Consideration must be given to the possibility of a slippery surface. Machine must be isolated before work begins. Keys must be removed and remain in the possession of the engineer throughout task. Support machine or its components with blocks or axle stands, etc. before working below them. Follow manufacturer's guidance on suitable means of supporting. Follow manufacturer's manual for suitable jacking, blocking or supporting points and methods. Ensure correct principles of jacking and blocking are followed. Equipment must never be left elevated on jack alone.	2	5	10

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