

IMPORTANT - REFRIGERATION AWARENESS (2014/15 OPERATING SEASON)

The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (ORFA) regularly researches and writes about issues that could affect our clients. These documents provide an opinion on key risk management issues but are not meant to provide any form of legal opinion or official interpretation. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation. All rights reserved. ©2014 Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.

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The ORFA continues to raise awareness of the requirements associated with compliance with the Operating Engineer Regulation (OER), B-52 Mechanical Refrigeration Code (MRC) and the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) for safe arena refrigeration plant operations. The ORFA recently conducted an extensive review and upgrade of the Basic Refrigeration course materials to ensure that member and industry needs are being met to assist in the creation of competent arena refrigeration plant operators. These materials were shared with the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) Chief Officer, John W.B. Coulter who reviewed the content and provided feedback to our efforts. Some of these comments will be reflected in the 2015 version of the Basic Refrigeration course materials, while other comments are being shared immediately to raise awareness prior to the coming operational season.

- In a “built-up refrigeration plant over 200hp”, the Operating Engineer Regulation (OER) requires a certified engineer or operator as a Chief to safely manage, operate and maintain the refrigeration plant. TSSA and the ORFA remind owners that in **ALL** other unattended registered refrigeration plants must have a dedicated “responsible person” to manage, operate and maintain the refrigeration plant. (See: http://www.member.orfa.com/Resources/Documents/librarydocs/guides_bp/ORFA%20Responsible%20Person%20Jan2014.pdf)
- Entry into **ANY** refrigeration plant in the Province of Ontario is deemed a privilege by TSSA. In an “unattended”

refrigeration plant there are both operating and guarded controls. Persons responsible for an unattended refrigeration plant room must be able to identify each type of control and be aware of the required alarm systems. In both a certified engineer/operator attended, or unattended plant, it is important to note that in the event of a guarded control failure that the plant must be immediately attended full time by a certified operator or shut down until the faulty control is activated.

- Members who have taken ORFA refrigeration courses will be aware that as required under the OER the primary internal entry door must be locked and posted. The doors must be posted “**Refrigeration Room Authorized Personal Only**” and if applicable, the type of refrigerant, noise hazard, no smoking and any other known hazard be identified. A reminder to ORFA members of the importance to also post the exterior door of the plant room with the exact same information in case Emergency Medical Services needs to enter the room from the outside during an emergency situation. Additionally, it is important to ensure that this egress has proper functioning panic hardware in place.
- For facilities that have installed a deadman valve to assist in the safe removal of oil in the system it is important that the primary shut off valve be tightly closed when oil is not being drained from the system. Also, that a plug must be inserted into the

deadman valve when oil is not being drained and that the deadman valve be protected from being accidentally struck causing it to open.

- TSSA warns that some eyewash/deluge shower installations are too close to electrical systems. The ORFA recommends that all members conduct an assessment of this equipment to ensure they have been safely installed.
- TSSA's Chief Officer has advised that currently TSSA field inspectors are actively inspecting and requiring that all refrigeration plants put proper identification on all controls, electrical switches and plant equipment. This focus is in anticipation to specific changes that will appear in the upcoming revised Operating Engineer Regulation (**there is currently no projected date for formal release**). This information must be in English; and if more than one (1) of the same functioning unit be sequenced numbered in a left to right protocol when looking at the front or driven end of the unit.

Example: Brine Pump #1 must be actually permanently mounted directly on/to the unit with corresponding information located on the master operating panel.

Additionally, all piping is expected to be properly identified with all valves being functioning identified as set out in the 2014/15 TSSA plant inspection handout which will be given to every registered plant by TSSA during the periodic plant inspection process.

See: ORFA Refrigeration Room Identification of Hazards and Risks doc.
http://www.member.orfa.com/Resources/Documents/librarydocs/guides_bp/Rrefrigeration%20Room%20Safety%20Ide

[ntification%20of%20Risks%20and%20Hazards.pdf](#)

- A reminder of the obligation under the OER to verbally report to the TSSA Chief Officer any refrigeration plant accident that results in personal injury, death or property damage within 8-hours and to submit a full written report within 48-hours.

The ORFA has released a variety of documents on refrigeration plant obligations and industry best practices over the past few years (See: http://www.member.orfa.com/library/guidelines_bestpractices#rp).

The ORFA continues to raise concern surrounding the lack of understanding and ultimate accountability for breaches of the Operating Engineer Regulation. As members begin to start a new operational season, the ORFA strongly recommends that all persons given privilege of entry into the ice arena refrigeration plant room, review all Guideline and Best Practices documents that are provided as a benefit of membership; along with the OER, MRC and OHSA as part of an ongoing internal training plan.

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