## **SAFEWORK**

## **HAZARD ALERT**

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Department: Queensland Metals

Location: George Fisher Mine

Date: 30/07/2020

Hazard Alert Title: Hand sanitiser stored in inappropriate containers

Fatal Hazard: 9. Fire and Explosion

For "Other" describe: N/A

## **Brief Description**

Sanitiser has been delivered to site in packages easily mistaken for water bottles and not spill proof by design. This poses two risks to workers:

- 1) Injesting the contents by mistaking sanitiser for a water bottle.
- 2) Uncontrolled relase of flammable liquid through lack of spill proof design.

Alcohol-based hand sanitisers contain very high percentages of ethanol and isopropyl alcohol. These are classified as flammable liquids, and present a fire hazard as they have a very low flash point.

The flash points of ethanol is 17.5°C (80 per cent volume) and isopropyl alcohol is 19°C (75 per cent volume)

The World Helath Organisation reccomends a minimum alcohol concentration of 60% to be an effective control against Covid-19.

**Corrective and Preventative Actions** 



- Sanitisers purchased for site must have a minimum alcohol content of 60%, but should aim for 80% ethanol or 75% isopropyl alcohol content to be an effective control against the spread of Covid-19.
- 2. They must not be purchased in, or decanted into containers that could be mistaken for a drink bottle.
- 3. To prevent the risk of spillage, sanitisers purchased for site must have a pump top dispenser.
- 4. Hand sanitisers are a classified Dangerous Good and release flammable vapours, especially when heated i.e. stored in a hot vehicle. Keep away from heat, sparks, open flames, hot surfaces etc. No smoking.
- 5. Hand sanitisers with inappropriate containers will be removed from site and replaced with a suitable alternative.

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