

This report is intended to share the results of an investigation and remedial actions taken

RIMS REFERENCE NUMBER: EHSIN 5188

		CATEGORY	CLASSIFICATION	
REGION:	Australia/Pacific	INJURY	X FATALITY	
SITE:	Lawlers	ILLNESS	LOST TIME	
LOCATION:	Camp Recycling Area	PROPERTY DAMAGE	RESTRICTED WORK	
DEPARTMENT:	Administration	PRODUCTION LOSS	MEDICAL TREATMENT	
DATE:	03.01.13	NEAR MISS	MINOR	X
TIME:	09.30am	OTHER	HIGH POTENTIAL	X

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

Whilst transferring an empty waste oil IBC (Intermediate Bulky Container) into place for future use, the driver of the forklift detected a strange smell emanating from the “empty” IBC. He immediately stopped the forklift to investigate the smell. He then opened the lid off the IBC to inspect the source of the smell and waived his hand over the top of the IBC to attain an understanding of the smell. After the operator inhaled the fumes he immediately felt a burning sensation to his eyes and throat.

The driver proceeded to a nearby eyewash station and thoroughly rinsed his eyes and mouth. He then reported the incident to his manager, who in-turn contacted the onsite Paramedic. The operator was immediately transferred to the medical centre, where he was treated for minor irritation to the face. The operator was monitored for several hours with no residual effect noted.

Note: The Secondary Operator present acting as a “Spotter” for the task quickly inspected the IBC and noticed a small sticker on the bin stating; Hydrochloric acid.

ROOT CAUSES:

Quality Control NI-The Company Contracted to supply the waste oil containers failed to ensure to send an empty IBC free from contamination.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Refresh the Cater Care staff on their chemical exposure procedure. And receiving goods training for checking incoming freight.
2. Quality Control NI-The Company contracted to supply the waste oil containers failed to ensure sending an empty 1000L IBC free from contamination.
3. Subsequently the company’s contract has now been terminated, due to another IBC being sent to site with an amount of residual material inside and incorrect labelling.

