



Nippon Yakin Kogyo Co., Ltd.

Promoting measures to avoid heatstroke

Award: Safety
Category: Workplace improvement

Challenge

At our plant, we have implemented a Safety Priority Action plan to prevent work accidents and health problems amongst employees. Our goal is to keep their bodies and mind in good condition.

In the workplace, we have taken measures to mitigate the risks of hot environments, especially in the melting shop. The environment has been improved with new equipment in order of priority. We also needed to implement additional measures to prevent heatstroke such as health management. This is particularly important in summer as we had several cases of heatstroke in 2013.

Action

The measures below have been implemented as a company-wide policy. This is in addition to guidance provided to employees about heatstroke before the summer season.

- In addition to providing isotonic water, we have started to provide an oral rehydration solution to employees in the workplace.
- We measure the temperature using a wet bulb globe thermometer (WBGT). This provides an accurate heat index which comprehensively takes into account the factors that cause heat disorders including temperature, humidity, radiant heat, and airflow. When the WBGT is measured, we announce the temperature to all employees in each shop.
- We have instructed all shops to decide their own rules for rest and rehydration when the WBGT figure is announced.

Outcome

We achieved zero heatstroke cases in our plant during 2014.

Measures taken in response to WBGT temperatures

WBGT	Level	Examples of measures to be taken
+31°C	Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid working outside for more than an hour • Move external work indoors where possible • Drink water, including salt, frequently while working outside • Always use a neck cooler when working outside • Alternate the people working outside every 15 minutes.
28 to 31°C	Strict caution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink water, including salt, frequently before working outside • Use a neck cooler as much as possible when working outside • Alternate the people working outside every 15 minutes.
25 to 28°C	Caution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink water, including salt, frequently before working outside • Alternate the people working outside every 15 minutes.
21 to 25°C	Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink water, including salt, frequently before working outside.
Less than 21°C	Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work normally • Drink water when thirsty.