



U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Memorandum

To: Board Members

From: Steven Messer
Acting General Counsel

STEVEN
MESSER

Digitally signed by
STEVEN MESSER
Date: 2026.05.14
12:07:22 -04'00'

Cc: Charles Barbee
Adam Henson
Leadership Team

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2026-32 | Recommendation to Cuisine Solutions Inc., Sterling Site (2024-03-I-VA-R4) from the Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release investigation (2024-03-I-VA)

Date: May 14, 2026

On May 13, 2026, the Board approved Notation Item 2026-32, thereby designating Recommendation 2024-03-I-VA-R4 to Cuisine Solutions Inc., Sterling Site from the Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release investigation (2024-03-I-VA) with the status of Closed – Acceptable Action.

Voting Summary – Notation Item 2026-32

Disposition: APPROVED

Disposition date: May 13, 2026

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
S. Johnson	X				5/13/2026
S. Owens	X				5/13/2026



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release
Recommendation Number:	2024-03-I-VA-R4
Date Issued:	September 25, 2025
Recipient:	Cuisine Solutions Inc., Sterling Site
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	May 13, 2026

Recommendation Text:

Implement an electronic process data historian and management system to ensure that critical process parameters are collected, tracked, and stored. The system should be available to refrigeration technicians so that they can monitor the refrigeration system and respond to and investigate process upsets.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On July 31, 2024, anhydrous ammonia was discharged from a pressure relief device in the refrigeration system of the Cuisine Solutions, Inc. facility in Sterling, VA. During the evacuation, workers were exposed to ammonia and four were seriously injured.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including discharging liquid ammonia from pressure relief devices to atmosphere and a lack of emergency preparedness.

As a result of these findings, the CSB issued four recommendations to the Cuisine Solutions, Inc., Sterling Site. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2024-03-I-VA-R4.

B. Response to the Recommendation

Cuisine Solutions Inc. has notified the CSB that they have updated the ammonia refrigeration control system so that technicians can monitor process data in real time, as well as review historical information, both directly in the refrigeration room or remotely via computer. Upon review of the relevant documentation provided, the CSB determined that Cuisine Solutions Inc. has satisfactorily implemented the recommendation.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation Nos. 2024-03-I-VA-R4 to: “Closed – Acceptable Action.”