



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  
12:11:23 -04'00'

Cc: Charles Barbee  
Adam Henson  
Leadership Team

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2026-34 | Recommendation to Cuisine Solutions Inc., Sterling Site (2024-03-I-VA-R6) from the Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release investigation (2024-03-I-VA)

Date: May 14, 2026

On May 13, 2026, the Board approved Notation Item 2026-34, thereby designating Recommendation 2024-03-I-VA-R6 to Cuisine Solutions Inc., Sterling Site from the Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release investigation (2024-03-I-VA) with the status of Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.

**Voting Summary – Notation Item 2026-34**

**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

<b>Report:</b>	Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2024-03-I-VA-R6
<b>Date Issued:</b>	September 25, 2025
<b>Recipient:</b>	Cuisine Solutions Inc., Sterling Site
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	May 13, 2026

#### **Recommendation Text:**

*Update Add an alarm or alarms specific to ammonia releases, so that workers can properly respond to a release. The alarm response should be documented in the updated Emergency Action Plan, and may include multiple distinct alarms and responses, such as one for shelter-in-place and one for evacuation.*

#### **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-R6.

##### B. Response to the Recommendation

Cuisine Solutions Inc. has notified the CSB that they intend to implement the recommendation. They have provided a plan of action that appears when implemented will satisfy the objectives of the recommendation and they have provided a timetable for completion.

##### C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2024-03-I-VA-R6 to: “Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.”