



## 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-R2   |
| <b>Date Issued:</b>           | September 23, 2025  |
| <b>Recipient:</b>             | International Institute of All-Natural Refrigeration (IIAR) |
| <b>New Status:</b>            | Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response |
| <b>Date of Status Change:</b> | Not Applicable – Initial Status                             |

### Recommendation Text:

*Update ANSI/IIAR 2 to include a requirement to assess whether emergency pressure relief devices discharge to a safe location, such as with a dispersion analysis.*

### 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 two recommendations to the International Institute of All-Natural Refrigeration (IIAR). This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2024-03-I-VA-R2.