

.59 Potentially Hazardous Items.

- A. An operator shall store all potentially harmful items, including knives, sharp tools, poisonous and toxic materials, prescription and nonprescription medicines, controlled dangerous substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, matches, and lighters in locations which are inaccessible to the children in care.**

INTENT: To help protect children in care from accidental harm, the operator must ensure that they do not have access to potentially hazardous items.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: If kept in or near the approved child care area, potentially hazardous items such as, but not limited to, the items cited in this Section A are stored in a way that prevents each child in care from gaining access to them.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observe how and where potentially harmful items are stored to determine if they are accessible to any child.

Notes: Potentially harmful items may not be stored on or with children's equipment or activity items.

- B. An operator shall store medicines properly and keep medicines not requiring refrigeration and alcoholic beverages in a locked container.**

INTENT: In addition to keeping medications inaccessible to children pursuant to Section A above, the operator must ensure that all child medications are stored properly so that they do not lose their potency. Medication that has lost its potency may become a hazardous item if administered to a child. During the facility's operating hours, medications and alcoholic beverages must be stored in a locked container.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:

- Child medications are stored to maintain their potency.
- Medications and alcoholic beverages are stored in a locked container.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observe to determine if medications are stored in preserve their potency and if they and any alcoholic beverages that are present are kept locked up.

Notes: Medications requiring refrigeration must be stored within a locked container that is kept in the center's refrigerator. The key to the container must be kept accessible to staff, but inaccessible to children.

- C. An operator may allow potentially harmful items, such as knives, sharp tools, and scissors, to be used by the children only under careful supervision.**

INTENT: A child may be permitted to use an item that is an obvious source of potential injury only if the child is closely supervised.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper use"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Each child using a potentially harmful item is closely supervised at all times.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observe to assess the level of supervision given to each child using scissors, tools, etc. If observation is not possible, interview director and other staff as necessary to determine the circumstances under which children are permitted to use such items.

- D. Except in a small center located in a residence, the operator may not keep firearms on the premises of the center.**

- E. In a small center located in a residence, an operator shall keep any firearms:**

- (1) In a location not used by the children in the center; and**
- (2) Unloaded and partially disassembled in a locked container with ammunition stored in its own separate locked container.**

INTENT: Unless the facility is housed within a private dwelling, the presence of a firearm anywhere on the premises is strictly prohibited. In a residence-based small center, a firearm may not be located anywhere in the approved care area. It must be stored in manner that secures

it from unauthorized access and prevents it from being accidentally discharged.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:

- No firearm is present on the premises of a facility that is not a residence-based small center.
- If a firearm is permitted, it is unloaded, partially disassembled, and kept in a locked container that is outside of the approved care area of the residence.
- Ammunition is stored apart from the firearm and is kept in a locked container that is also located away from the approved care area.

ASSESSMENT METHOD:

- In any facility, ask the director if there is a firearm on the premises.
- In a residence-based small center, if the operator or director reports that a firearm is present, interview the person to determine how and where the firearm and its ammunition are stored.

F. An operator shall store petroleum and flammable products in an approved manner and in locations inaccessible to children.

INTENT: Flammable products are an obvious source of risk and must be stored properly to prevent accidental injury or death. They must be secured from child access at all times.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: All petroleum and flammable products are stored in appropriate containers that are secured from access by children.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observe how and where petroleum and flammable products are stored.

Notes: Questions related to appropriate containers and locations for storing petroleum and flammable products should be directed to the local fire authority.

G. An operator shall store cleaning and sanitizing agents and poisonous products apart from food and not accessible to children.

INTENT: Cleaning agents and other toxic substances are an obvious source of risk and must be stored properly to prevent accidental poisoning. They must be kept apart from food and beverages and secured from child access at all times.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: All cleaning agents and poisonous products are stored away from food, in original labeled containers, and out of the reach of children.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observe how and where cleaning agents and other toxic substances are stored.

H. An operator may not have containers of poisonous products on the premises unless they are labeled clearly as to nature, content, and approved purposes.

INTENT: Toxic products and substances are prohibited from the premises unless they are clearly and specifically labeled.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Each container of a toxic product or substance that is present is legibly labeled as to nature, content, and approved purposes

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Determine if toxic products are maintained on-site. If they are, observe their containers to determine if and how they are labeled.

I. An operator shall:

- (1) Use only pesticides which are approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, according to the instructions for use;**
- (2) Use pesticides only when children are not in care; and**
- (3) Store pesticides apart from food, apart from cleaning agents, and in locations inaccessible to children.**

INTENT: Pesticides are extremely toxic substances that present an obvious risk to safety and health. They are prohibited from the facility unless EPA-approved and used as directed by the manufacturer. A pesticide may never be used when children in care are in attendance, must be stored separately, and must be secured from access by children.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEMS: "Proper use"
"Proper storage"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:

- No pesticide is used or present unless it is EPA-approved.
- A pesticide is used only when no children are in attendance.
- Any pesticide maintained on-site is stored apart from all food, beverages, and related preparation or service items (pots and pans, dishes, utensils, etc.) and apart from all chemical products such as cleaning agents.
- Any pesticide maintained on-site is stored away from approved care areas and in a manner that secures it from access by children.

ASSESSMENT METHOD:

- Interview the director and facility staff as needed to determine if, how, and when pesticides are used.
- Observe to determine if, how, and where pesticides are stored.

J. An operator shall plug or cap each electrical socket that is accessible to children in care as required by the applicable fire code.

INTENT: To prevent inquisitive young children from serious injury or death from electrical shock, each electrical socket within reach of any child under 5 years old must be suitably capped or covered.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Electrical sockets capped"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: Each electrical socket within reach of any child under 5 years old is capped or covered.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation of each socket in each area approved for care of children less than 5 years old.