



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
BARTON G. PICKELMAN, CIH
DIRECTOR

SUSAN CORBIN
DIRECTOR

April 22, 2025

Complaint # 2283300

Colin Brander
Director of EHS
Grand Valley State University
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

Letter sent by email only to: Brandeco@gvsu.edu

Mr. Brander:

Per our telephone conversation this afternoon, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), General Industry Safety and Health Division received a complaint alleging safety and/or health hazards at your worksite located at:

1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

The specific nature of the alleged hazards states:

- *I have been egregiously exposed to latex in multiple forms since August 5, 2024, on multiple campuses at Grand Valley State University.*
- *Emergency medical care was required to treat anaphylactic shock. This medical event occurred following exposure to latex proteins during a tabling event at the Pew Campus – DeVos Center. The suspected source of latex exposure is the use of latex gloves during food handling and the use of rubber bands on linens.*
- *Additional exposures to latex paint occurred at the Allendale Campus – Kirkhof Center resulted in the need for medication.*
- *During a staff retreat on February 24, 2025, at the DeVos Center on the Pew Campus, a request for a gluten-free meal was made but the food provided was not gluten-free. This resulted in a case of hives which lasted for the next 16 days.*

We have not determined whether the hazards, as alleged, exist at your workplace; we do not intend to conduct an on-site inspection. However, you are requested to investigate the alleged conditions and make any necessary corrections or modifications within **30 calendar days of the date of this letter**. Please advise me in writing of the results of your on-site investigation and provide any supporting documentation of your findings. Include any applicable measurements or monitoring results, as well as a description of any corrective action you have taken or are in the process of taking, including photographs of the corrected condition.

Your response to our letter can be by any of the following methods: email: kirkbyr@michigan.gov, Fax: (517) 284-7755, or USPS: MIOSHA GISHD – District #1 530 W. Allegan, PO Box 30644, Lansing, MI 48906. If you elect to communicate via email, **please be aware that the state server will not accept emails (including attachments) that are 25**

megabytes or larger. Therefore, if your communication is greater than 25MB, you will have to divide it into several smaller emails to ensure that it is transmitted. Please include your establishment name and complaint number in the subject line of your email and on any other correspondence.

This letter is not a citation or a notification of proposed penalty. If you provide this information, we will probably not need to conduct an on-site investigation. If we do not receive a response from you within 30 calendar days indicating that appropriate action has been taken or that no hazard exists and why, an on-site inspection may be conducted.

Please note, however, that MIOSHA selects for on-site inspection a random sample of cases where we have received letters in which employers have indicated satisfactory corrective action. This policy has been established to ensure that employers have taken the action asserted in their letters. Any action taken by you in this matter will not automatically remove your workplace from the possibility of an unannounced on-site inspection by duly authorized representatives of MIOSHA in accordance with routine scheduling procedures currently in effect.

You are requested to post a copy of this letter and your response to it where they will be readily accessible for review by all your employees until MIOSHA deems the case closed.

Section 65 of Act 154, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act, states that an employer shall not discriminate against an employee for exercising his or her rights under Act 154. If an employee believes that he or she was discharged or otherwise discriminated against as a result of filing a complaint, the employee may file a complaint with the MIOSHA Employee Discrimination Section. The complainant has been informed of their discrimination rights under Act 154.

In addition to its function of inspecting workplaces, MIOSHA offers a wide range of safety and health related services in response to the needs of the working public, both employers and employees. These services include training and education, consultation, voluntary compliance programs, and assistance in correcting hazards.

The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division offers programs and services without charge to assist you in resolving occupational safety and health issues. Consultations may be available through telephone, email, or in some cases through an on-site visit. The CET Division has free publications, a free video-loan library, and sample written programs, which are available on the MIOSHA web page located at www.michigan.gov/cet. To discuss or request CET services, call (517) 284-7720.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, **please contact me at (517) 604-3893**. Your personal support and interest in the safety and health of your employees is appreciated.

Regards,

Robert Kirkby

Robert Kirkby, CIH
Industrial Hygienist
MIOSHA-GISHD
Phone: (517) 604-3893