Retail Tagger Safety Infographic



Shared Tagging Guns and Bloodborne Disease Risk

Handheld tagging guns, also known as swiftachers or swift-taggers, are used in retail to attach price tags or other tags to clothing, accessories, and household goods. Tagging guns have a hollow needle to penetrate material and to deliver a plastic thread fastener, which attaches the paper tag to the retail item. Injuries from the needle ("needlesticks") are common in retail workers who use tagging guns. ***Therefore, when tagging guns are shared, workers may be exposed to pathogens (disease causing agents such as viruses or bacteria) that are spread through blood ("bloodborne infections").***

HEALTH HAZARD ALERT

Bloodborne infections are caused by pathogens that are spread through contact with an infected person's blood. Bloodborne infections include **hepatitis B, hepatitis C**, and **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).** Although these are serious infections, treatment is available if testing shows that you are infected. There is also a vaccine available that you can take to prevent hepatitis B infection.

To prevent bloodborne pathogen exposure while using a handheld tagging gun

EMPLOYERS SHOULD:

- **Issue individual tagging guns to workers that are labeled with the worker's name.**
- Provide a locker or other secure space for workers to store their tagging guns when not using them.
- Provide an appropriate biohazard waste container for disposal of used needles.
- Instruct workers to report needlestick injuries to their supervisor.
- Provide worker training in the safe use of tagging guns.
- Provide worker training about bloodborne pathogens.
- Be familiar with the Cal/OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.
- Have an Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

WORKERS SHOULD:

- **Avoid sharing their tagging gun with coworkers.**
- Label tagging gun with their name.
- Store their tagging gun in a secure space when not using it.
- Handle only their own tagging gun needles.
- Dispose of their own used needles in an appropriate red biohazard waste container.

If a tagging gun must be shared, workers should:

- Never lend a tagging gun to a coworker with a needle loaded.
- Always make sure the prior user removes the used needle if a tagging gun is borrowed.
- Report tagging gun injuries to their supervisor immediately.

Source: https://www.cdph.ca.gov