

Room Alert Heat Index Monitoring Helps Retail Pharmaceutical Chains Meet OSHA Compliance

Of the tens of thousands of retail pharmaceutical stores located in the U.S., all of them are subject to strict regulations and oversight by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. For those in high-risk states, they may also be mandated to follow additional state-wide guidelines. For one retail pharmaceutical chain in California required to comply with OSHA and Cal/OSHA best practices, Room Alert was able to provide accurate heat index monitoring which demonstrated staff safety and ensured industry compliance.

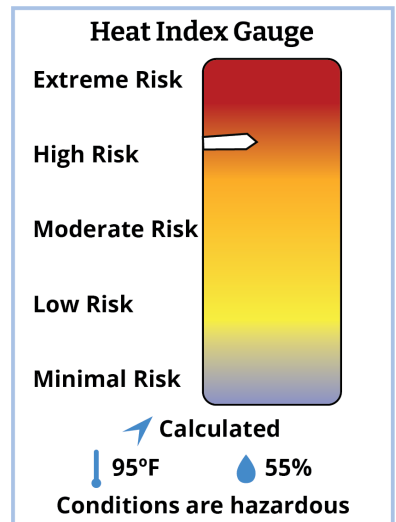
Retail pharmaceutical chains, often referred to simply as pharmacy chains or drugstore chains, are a type of business that operates multiple retail outlets or pharmacies where prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications, as well as other health-related products, are sold directly to consumers. Pharmacy chains are responsible for running multiple store locations, often spread across a city, region or even nationally. They are a vital part of the healthcare ecosystem because their services ensure the availability of medications, offer healthcare advice and provide essential products to communities.

Room Alert Inside Retail Pharmaceutical Chains

The safety & compliance manager of a distribution center for a pharmacy chain in California shared with us that their building is located in the high desert of Southern California. Outdoor summer temperatures typically exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37 degrees Celsius). They also often see temperatures inside their retail store reach well over 85 degrees Fahrenheit (29 degrees Celsius).

This pharmaceutical chain previously had an environment monitoring system initially installed in 2009, but when that system reached its end of life and the manufacturer was no longer in business, they no longer had support of that system. Left needing a replacement, a simple internet search for temperature monitoring led them to discover Room Alert.

They quickly identified Room Alert as the perfect solution due to its ability to report on heat index, send email and SMS text alerts, as well as compile data logging. None of the other systems they looked at had the ability to measure and report on the heat index, which is different from standard temperature and humidity readings. Heat index is what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the



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- In business over 35 years
- Found in over 185 countries
- Distribution in RI, USA and Shannon, Ireland

Room Alert Basics

- Multiple monitor models
- Pricing begins at \$295
- Full range of sensor options
- Solutions for every industry, type & size organization

Room Alert Monitoring

- Free Room Alert app
- Online Room Alert Account
- Includes Room Alert Manager (Professional Tier & higher)
- Local software provided
- Fully compatible w/ third-party SNMP monitoring tools



air temperature. They needed accurate heat index monitoring, separate from temperature and humidity monitoring, because OSHA rules and regulations are based on heat index, not just temperature and/ or humidity alone. To them, having Room Alert automatically monitor heat index was a huge advantage.

Room Alert email and SMS text alert features were another advantage that their previous system did not have. Their old system relied on someone to manually log into the system and check the readings every hour during the summer months. This was time-consuming and also left a lot of room for human error. With Room Alert, retail pharmaceutical chains don't need to worry about missing a reading or constantly overseeing the system manually. This streamlines time, resources, accuracy and overall productivity.

This safety & compliance manager continued with sharing "When an alert goes off, all the right people are notified so we can put our protocols in place to keep our employees safe. The data logging is very useful as well because if we ever have to answer to an OSHA regulator we have the data to prove that the necessary actions were taken at the appropriate times." Another huge component to industry compliance for retail pharmaceutical chains is record-keeping. Compliance requires retail pharmacy chains to maintain records of safety training, accident reports, and safety inspections. A huge part of California's mandate requires employers to collect data regarding the temperature and heat index conditions within their work environments. OSHA's record-keeping rule states that businesses maintain records related to workplace injuries and illnesses for a period of five years. Room Alert offers data capacity that is fully customizable, allowing users to retain data as needed without any limitations.



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Room Alert In Action

For this retail pharmaceutical chain, they have installed multiple Room Alert PRO devices in 24 locations throughout their facility. The Room Alert PRO Line delivers superior monitoring to customers who want to keep data secure, ensure high performance, maintain a large number of users, manage busy networks and follow DFARS, NIST SP 800-171 and ISO/IEC 27000 best practices. These devices are populated with sensors that are designed for temperature, humidity and heat index monitoring. Room Alert is located in various areas of their facility such as shipping and receiving docks, and in multi-level pick areas.

To support their Room Alert monitors and sensors, this pharmaceutical chain uses our Room Alert Account services. Room Alert Account is our online dashboard provided free to every Room Alert user that is designed to provide seamless monitoring and management

capabilities for Room Alert installations. The safety & compliance manager noted that Room Alert Account is extremely user-friendly, making it easy to check the environmental conditions in the building with a quick

look at their dashboard. It is also easy to customize alerts, and check on the building from anywhere in the world wherever there is an internet connection.

The Room Alert ecosystem of monitors, sensors and online platform has allowed this retail pharmaceutical company to see the fluctuation of temperature and heat index in real-time throughout the building. This allows managers to promptly adjust protocols to keep employees safe and comfortable, while maintaining necessary compliance. For example, they can quickly identify when a dock door is left open just by the temperature readings and location of the device. The safety



& compliance manager shared “The single biggest benefit from Room Alert is that it has helped us tremendously in defending ourselves against OSHA complaints because we are able to demonstrate that we are monitoring the temperature, humidity and heat index inside of the building. We can easily reference relevant sensor data and show that we are following the protocols in place in order to prevent heat-related illnesses long before federal and state agencies had any formal regulations on indoor heat.”

The Challenge: OSHA Compliance In Retail Pharmaceutical Chains

Pharmaceutical chains must follow OSHA rules and regulations designed to help protect workers from occupational hazards. These regulations cover various aspects of workplace safety such as requirements for maintaining safe and healthy working conditions. OSHA guidance states that retail pharmaceutical locations must stay within the temperature, humidity and heat index ranges that they deem as safe.

In regions with high temperatures, such as California, incidents of heat-related illnesses

or even fatalities among outdoor and indoor workers can occur if employers fail to implement proper heat stress prevention measures. Such incidents can result in investigations and potential fines. The best way for retail pharmaceutical chains to meet industry standards regarding employee safety is by installing Room Alert environment monitoring in their retail stores.

High Heat Threatens Staff Safety & OSHA Compliance

Different parts of the country face different weather conditions, which can make maintaining OSHA compliance particularly challenging. California is considered a high-risk state for various natural disasters and environmental challenges. Here, heat is a pressing concern threatening staff safety and OSHA compliance. On top of federal OSHA regulations, California also has their own California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board standards for heat-related illness prevention and workplace safety. According to Cal/OSHA, 87 degrees Fahrenheit (30.5 degrees Celsius) is considered “high heat”.

At this temperature, employers are expected to take precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses in their employees. However without the valuable insight of proactive environment monitoring with Room Alert, high heat can go unaddressed. This can lead to several consequences such as compromising staff safety or incurring penalties and fees, among other legal and operational repercussions.



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Successful Outcome

For one retail pharmaceutical chain in California, the comprehensive abilities of the Room Alert platform were able to help them manage staff safety while meeting OSHA and Cal/OSHA industry best practices. We are extremely proud that our Room Alert products are able to service all retail pharmaceutical chains that want to prioritize workplace safety and comply with industry rules and regulations.

Room Alert Is Your Compliance Partner

Room Alert is advanced and secure environment monitoring that works by proactively overseeing environmental conditions. When a change in the environment is detected, Room Alert promptly notifies users. The peace of mind that Room Alert provides allows threats to be quickly identified and therefore corrective action to be taken before there is a compromise in worker safety and OSHA compliance. Room Alert also offers built-in guidance features in our Room Alert Account online platform as well as our Room Alert Manager software, which were specifically designed to make it exceptionally easy for users to follow OSHA regulations.



Room Alert provides peace of mind by helping protect people, property and productivity.

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